

FROM HIROAKI SAMURA
CREATOR OF "BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL"



DIE WER GEL DER 1





A NEMESIS
PUBLICATION

BAD BREW ACTION

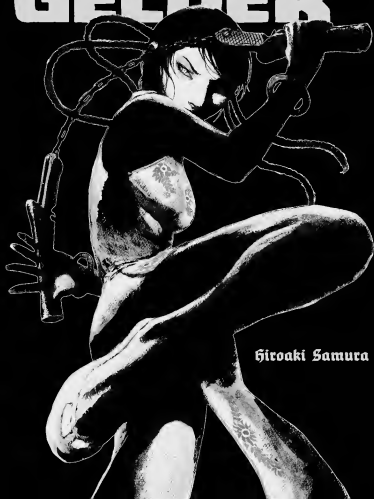


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DIE WER GELDER 1



Giroaki Samura

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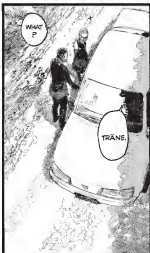
AH,
THERE
IT IS,
UP
THERE.

MY
NAME?
TRÄNE.

YOU'VE
BEEN A
HUGE
HELP
ER...



IF
KIEBITZEN-
BERG HERE
TURNS
OUT LIKE
DORTMUND
OR STUTT-
GART...



WHAT?
P

TRÄNE.



IT
WOULD
BE
WONDER-
FUL.



...WHAT
WOULD
YOU
THINK?



THAT'S
WHY
WE'RE
HERE.

WOULDN'T
IT?

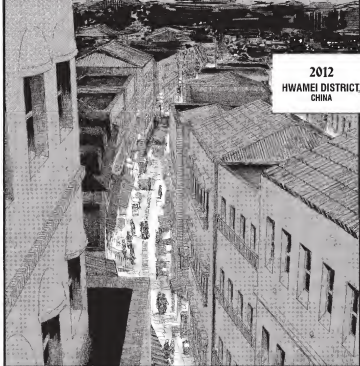
GELDER



DIE WER



#1 - **Träne** (Tears)



2012
HWAMEI DISTRICT,
CHINA







YOU
DON'T
LOOK
LIKE THE
PICTURE
...



OH...
SHOULD
I FIND
SOMEONE
WHO BEARS
A CLOSER
RESEM-
BLANCE?

DUI
BU QI.
I'M
SORRY,
ZHEN
IS OFF
TODAY...



ARE YOU...
RUSSIAN?



...IS
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
COMBINATION
IN THE
WORLD.

VERY NICE.
I THINK
WHITE SKIN
AND BLACK
HAIR...



AH,
YES. MY
GRAND-
MOTHER
WAS BELA-
RUSIAN.

WE CAME
TO CHINA
IN MY
MOTHER'S
GENERATION...



GUO
LAI.
COME.





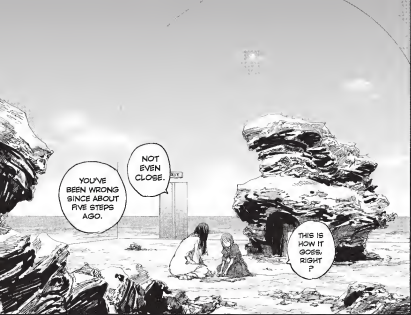
YOU
WON'T
TAKE THE
GLOVES
OFF?

UM,
WELL
...

MANY
OF THE
VISITORS
HERE
PREFER
THEM
ON...



THEY
HAVE
GOOD
TASTE.



YOU'VE
BEEN WRONG
SINCE ABOUT
FIVE STEPS
AGO.

NOT
EVEN
CLOSE.

THIS IS
HOW IT
GOES,
RIGHT?



...BE-
CAUSE
I'M
GERMAN.



YOUR HEART
ISN'T FULLY
JAPANESE.



WHAT?
I DON'T
GET
IT!

YOU NEED
AN INWARD
FOLD HERE,
BUT YOU DID
A REVERSE
FOLD.



IF IT
WON'T
STAND,
IT'S JUST
A PLAIN
OLD
DINOSAUR.

IT SAYS THIS
DINOSAUR IS
SUPPOSED TO
STAND ON
ITS OWN.

THERE!!
I DID
IT!!



AND
DON'T EAT
THE ONE
ON THE
RIGHT;
THAT'S
FOR
SATORU.

THIS
ONE HAS
HONEY,
AND
THIS ONE
DOESN'T.



...MM.
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



I'll
take
the
honey!

N-
NO!
NO
WAY!

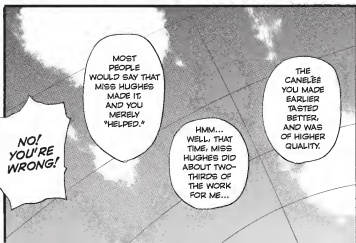
SATO-
RU'S
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND
P



I MADE
SOME
BAKED
CUSTARD
IN MISS
HUGHES'S
CLASS.

DON'T
YOU WANT
TO TRY IT,
JIE MAO?

...SO
THAT'S A
FRIDGE IN
THERE.



**NO!
YOU'RE
WRONG!**

MOST
PEOPLE
WOULD SAY THAT
MISS HUGHES
MADE IT
AND YOU
MERELY
"HELPED."

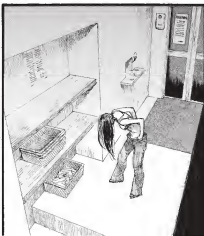
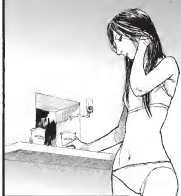
HMM...
WELL, THAT
TIME, MISS
HUGHES DID
ABOUT TWO-
THIRDS OF
THE WORK
FOR ME...

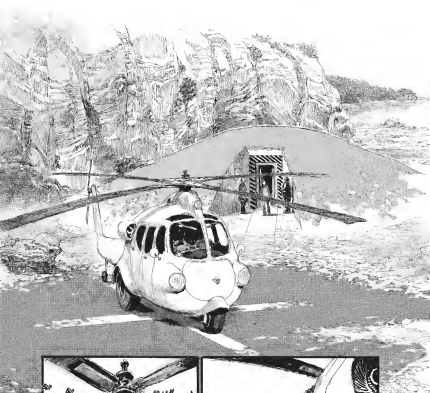
THE
CANELÉE
YOU MADE
EARLIER
TASTED
BETTER,
AND WAS
OF HIGHER
QUALITY.





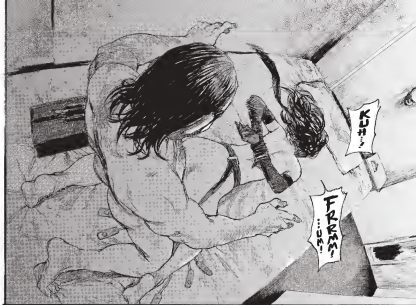
















WHEN I VISIT NEXT WEEKEND, I'LL CALL YOU TO WHERE I'M STAYING.

TELL ME YOUR NAME AND USUAL PLACE.



BY NEXT WEEK, I'LL BE IN JAPAN FOR A WHILE...

THANK YOU, SIR. BUT ...



I DIDN'T SEE YOUR NAME OR FACE ON THE LIST. YOU A FILL-IN?

AH, YES, I'M ON LOAN.



A FRIEND OF MINE DIED OVER THERE.

JAPAN P

SHE DIDN'T HAVE A FAMILY... SO I'M GOING TO RECEIVE HER REMAINS.



KAH! IT'S FINE. HELL, YOU'VE GOT A STRONGER SPIRIT THAN YOU LOOK!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL WORK WHILE YOU'RE THERE?

DUI BU QI...



I MIGHT AS WELL ...

AND... IF I'M GOING TO JAPAN ANYWAY ...



HERE'S
A TIP...



...



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
INS THAT
MIGHT
GET YOU
A WORK
VISA?

NO, I'LL BE
ILLEGAL...
PROBABLY
DOING THE
SAME THING
I AM NOW.



ISHI-
KUNAGI-
JIMAP



IF YOU'RE
GOING
TO KISS
SELLING
YOUR BODY
FOR YOUR
JOB...

...YOU
SHOULD
GO TO
ISHIKU-
NAGIJIMA.



GOT A
RED LIGHT
TOWN
JUST LIKE
HWAMEI.

IT'S
OFF THE
COAST OF
SHIMANE...
AN ISLAND
ALMOST OUT
IN INTER-
NATIONAL
WATERS.



YOU
CAN GET A
WORK VISA
REGARD-
LESS OF
WHETHER
IT'S PROS-
TITUTION
OR NOT...

IT'S
NOT JUST
AN IDLE
SIMILARITY;
IT WAS
MODELED
AFTER THIS
TOWN.



JUST
LIKE THIS
PLACE
...?



DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND
MY
MEANING
?

BUT THEY
SELL THINGS
OTHER THAN
SEX THERE.



I WAS JUST
HOPING TO
MAKE MY
NEXT TRIP
TO JAPAN
EVEN MORE
ENJOYABLE.

BUT
DON'T
LISTEN
TO ME.



HUP
!







MY
ACTUAL
HOME...



I
DON'T
...

...HAVE A
DROP OF
RUSSIAN
BLOOD
IN ME.



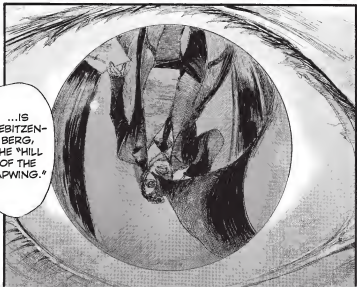
WH...
WHA...

MR.
SUCHI.



I
SHOULD
APOLO-
GIZE.

I LIED
TO YOU
EARLIER.



...IS
KIEBITZEN-
BERG,
THE "HILL
OF THE
LAPWING."



WHAT
MORE
COULD
YOU
WANT
FROM—



WHAT
WOULD
YOU
WANT
FROM
US
NOW
P!

WE
MADE IT
RIGHT...
WE PAID
YOUR
REPARA-
TIONS,
PAID FOR
CARE...



WHA
...

WH...
WHY
NOW
...P!

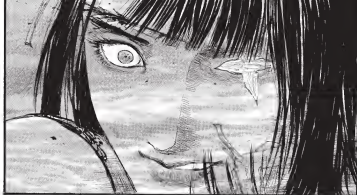


...!!



SLAKK!!

KAAH!



Rachegötter, Gört der Mutter Schwur!





I
THOUGHT A
MAN WOULD
HAVE A BETTER
MEMORY FOR A
WOMAN HE'S
FUCKED.

I'M
DISAP-
POINTED.





2001
KIEBITZENBERG, GERMANY
POPULATION: 2



#2 - **Horainu** (Stray Dog)



HAVE
SOME FAITH
IN ME...
AND COME
ALONG FOR
THE RIDE,
SHINOBU-
SAN!

I'VE GOT
A WAY TO
TAKE CARE
OF YOU
FOR LIFE.

Just a bottom-of-
the-totem-pole
member of the
Kakesu-gumi, a
tertiary arm of the
massive Taiho-kai
criminal syndicate.

In short, a
common thug.

This
man's
name
is Ro
Sugito.



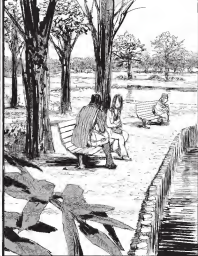
It
spotted,
he's a
dead
man—
half
dead,
if he's
lucky.

Even an
amateur
can tell
it's that
kind of
money
from a
glance.



The
money
isn't
clean,
of
course.

I CAN'T
BRAG
TOO MUCH
ABOUT IT...
BUT I'VE
GOT 20
ML IN
HERE.



THE YAKUZA
ARE REAL PIECES
OF SHIT, BABE...
BUT I'VE GOT A
HANKERING FOR
THE SLOW LIFE.

WE CAN GO
ON THE RUN
TO KYUSHU,
OPEN UP A
MOTORCYCLE
SHOP...

HEH
HEH
...



...you
don't
take this
man's
hand
unless
you're a
real idiot.

COME
WITH ME,
SHINOBU-
SAN...

Which
means
...



I
SAID
THE
SLOW
LIFE,
BABE!
SLOW
!!

YOU'VE
MADE
A REAL
MAN OF
YOURSELF,
RO!

C'MON,
LET'S BE
THE 21ST-
CENTURY
BONNIE &
CLYDE!

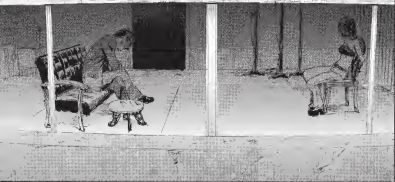






I'LL
TALK WITH
THE GIRL
HERE.

TAKE
SUGITO
INTO THE
FITNESS
ROOM.



THEY
HIT MY FACE
TOO MUCH;
I CAN'T
SPEAK.

...



MAYBE
YOU COULD
BE NICE
ENOUGH...
TO SPOT
ME A
CIGARETTE
?

OOH, IT
HURTS.



...WILL
COST
YOU ONE
OF YOUR
NAILS.

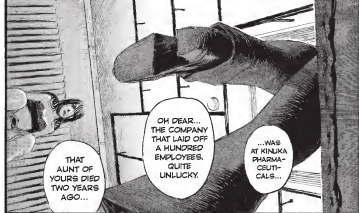


FROM
NOW
ON...

...EACH
ONE OF MY
QUESTIONS
YOU
IGNORE...



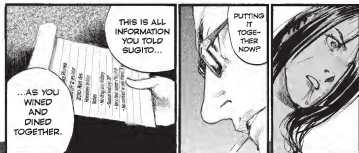




THAT
AUNT OF
YOURS DIED
TWO YEARS
AGO...

OH DEAR...
THE COMPANY
THAT LAID OFF
A HUNDRED
EMPLOYEES.
QUITE
UNLUCKY.

...WAS
AT KINUKA
PHARMA-
CEUTI-
CAL...



...AS YOU
WINED
AND
DINED
TOGETHER.

THIS IS ALL
INFORMATION
YOU TOLD
SUGITO...

PUTTING IT TOGETHER NOW



RO SUGITO
WAS ONE
OF THE MEN
CARRYING
OUT THIS
SEARCH.

UNTIL HE
DECIDED
TO MAKE
OFF WITH
COMPANY
MONEY,
THAT IS...

WE ARE
SEARCHING
FOR A WOMAN
WHO MEETS A
CERTAIN SET
OF CRITERIA.



AUGH!

うん
うん

うん

AAAH

A-
BEA-
UUU-
TIFUL!
EEEN-
ERGY!

うん
うん

MESTIZO

HEY-
HEY,
HEY!

うん
うん

うん
うん

うん
うん

うん
うん



NGAAH!!

JUST
RIDING ON
MY PINK
BA-BA-BA-
BICYCLE!



I'VE
GOT THAT
FEELING,
IT'S SO
FREE-
WHEELING



DUN-
DUN
NDA!

SHABA-
DEE-DA-
DEELA!

NDA!

NDA!

NDA!

WHEW!
I ROODE
ALL THE
WAY TO
NIPPORI.

THAT'S
A GOOD
PLACE TO
STOP.



RACE
ON,
BIKE!

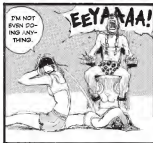
BUDDA-
BUDDA-
BUDDA-
BUDDAAA!!



THERE
WE GO.

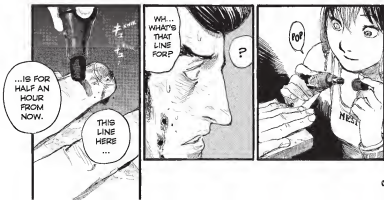
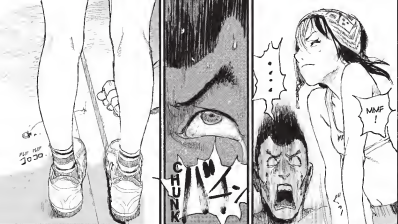
...?

WHAT'S
NEXT?











SO I
ONLY USE
THE GRIP
TEN TIMES
A DAY.

EXERCISE

Daily menu

- Cycling... 3
- Expansion... 3
- Apollo... 3
- Sit-ups... 40
- Grip... 10

I DON'T
WANT MY
FINGERS
TO GET
FAT OF
COURSE.



THAT
MEANS
TEN CUTS
OVER THE
COURSE
OF THE
DAY.





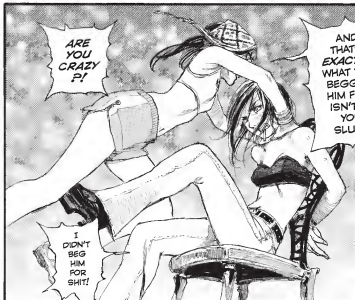




...AND
THEN
PLACE
IT IN
YOURS!

...IS FOR
AZUMA-
SAN TO
LIGHT
IT IN
HIS OWN
MOUTH...

WITH YOUR
HANDS TIED,
THE ONLY WAY
YOU COULD
SMOKE A
CIGARETTE...



ARE
YOU
CRAZY
P!

AND
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT YOU
BEGGED
HIM FOR,
ISN'T IT,
YOU
SLUT!!

I
DIDN'T
BEG
HIM
FOR
SHIT!

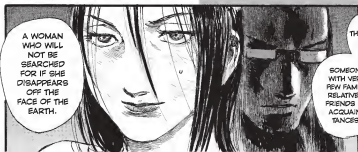


AH
...



Plut!!







SHINOBU.

YOU'RE
WORKING
WITH US,
STARTING
TOMORROW.



HEH...

AND IF I
REFUSE, ME
AND SUGITO
GET TO GRACE
THE FRONT
COVER OF
TOMORROW'S
PAPER?

STOP HER
HEART STOP
HER HEART
STOP HER
HEART STOP
HER HEART
STOP



IT'S TAKING
PLACE ON
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA—
YOUR HOME.



THREE DAYS
FROM NOW,
THERE'S A DEAL
GOING DOWN
BETWEEN
ANOTHER MOB
FAMILY AND A
BUSINESS.

WE'RE
GOING
TO RAID
THAT
DEAL.



ISHIKU-
NAGI-
JIMA

WE'VE NEVER
BEEN STUPID
ENOUGH TO
LET OUR
BODIES BE
FOUND.

NO
WORRIES
ABOUT
THAT.



NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D HEAR
ANOTHER
PERSON
ASIDE FROM
MYSELF
SAY THAT
NAME.



...HMM...



...YOU'RE
ALMOST
GUARAN-
TEED TO GET
SOMETHING
TASTY.

...IF YOU SIT
IN A NICE
RESTAURANT
AND
ORDER AN
EXPENSIVE
DINNER...

NO
MATTER
HOW
UNFAMILIAR
A COUNTRY
IS...



THE
GREAT
PART
ABOUT
JAPAN...

THEIR
BOTTLED
OOLONG
TEA IS TOO
STRONG,
THOUGH.

...IS THAT
EVEN THE
FOOD SOLD
IN CON-
VENIENCE
STORES
TASTES
DELICIOUS.

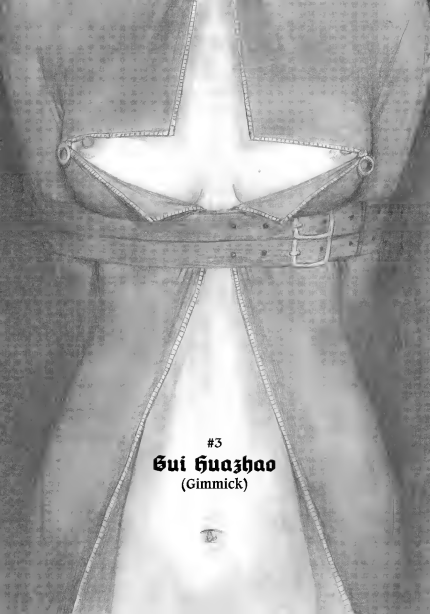


UH
...

TAH
...

...
URGH
...





#3

Gui Huazhao
(Gimmick)





YOU THINK
A BROTHEL
LIKE THAT
KEEPS
MULTIPLE
GIRLS
NAMED
SARITA?

WHEN
YOU SAY
"SARITA,"
YOU DON'T
MEAN *MY*
SARITA,
DO YOU?!

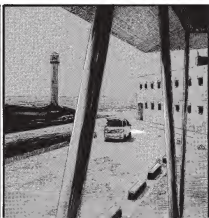
NO
WAY
FOR
REAL
?!

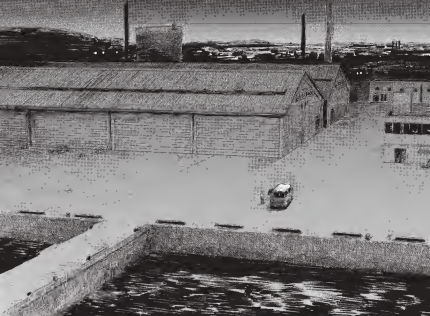
SAME
THING
TO ME...
AND WHY
WOULD YOU
COUNT?

IN AN
840-
WORD
ESSAY BY
E-MAIL
?!

SAID
THE
SAME
THING
TO ME.

BUT
SHE SAID
I WAS
HER FIRST
LOVE!





**DIES IST
SHINDO.**
(THIS IS
SHINDO.)

HALLO.
(HELLO.)



**HERR
STRAUB...**
(WITH MR.
STRAUB?)

**KÖNNTE
ICH MIT...**
(COULD I PLEASE
SPEAK...)

**ENTSCULDIGE
DIE VERSPATUNG.**
(SORRY ABOUT
THE DELAY.)







WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE...?



*...BIS
SPÄTER.*
(TALK TO YOU
LATER.)



WHAT
SORT OF
EVENT
ARE YOU
RUNNING,
AZUMA-
SAN?



REAL
PODUNK
OPERATION
YOU'VE GOT
THERE,
KUDO.

SO THE-
SOTEN-KAI'S
LEADER RIDES
AROUND IN A
MINIVAN?

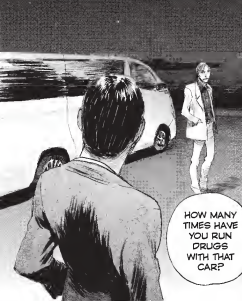


OH,
RIGHT.
SORRY
ABOUT THAT,
KUDO.



I
TOLD
YOU,
I'M
"SHINDO"
NOW.

...



I'VE
GOT
SOME
QUES-
TIONS
FOR
YOU.

SO I'LL
JUST ASK
THEM AND
BE ON MY
WAY.



HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE
YOU RUN
DRUGS
WITH THAT
CAR?



OUR GANG DOESN'T EVER HANDLE DRUGS. I THOUGHT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY...



UH... NEVER.

I'M ASKING IF THAT CAR HAS EVER BEEN USED TO MOVE DRUGS.



HUH?!



...EVERYTHING HAS AN EXCEPTION.

THE THING IS...



WE'RE THE SAME WAY... TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES.

YES, I DO.



HANAKAWA BOUGHT FIVE KILOS OF HEROIN TWO DAYS AGO...

...AND IT WAS STOLEN BY A GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN WEARING MASKS.



IS HE STILL ALIVE?

LIKE YOUR HANAKAWA-SAN, FOR EXAMPLE.



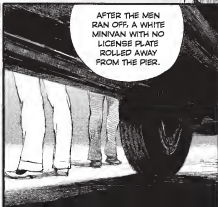
BUT A
VERY
LUCKY
THING
HAD-
PENED.

HE WAS DOING
THIS ON THE
DOWN LOW,
AND WAS
OUTNUMBERED.
THAT WAS HIS
UNDOING.



...KANA-
KAWA
HAPPENED
TO SPOT
SOME-
THING.

WITH A
BULLET
IN HIS
GUTS
...



AFTER THE MEN
RAN OFF, A WHITE
MINIVAN WITH NO
LICENSE PLATE
ROLLED AWAY
FROM THE PIER.



...OVER
SOME
SMALL-TIME
BULLSHIT
LIKE THAT,
ARE YOU?

YOU'RE NOT
ACTUALLY
GOING TO
START A
WAR...



...IF THE BOSS
FINDS OUT,
IT COULD MEAN
INDEFINITE EXILE.
WE DON'T
WANNA LEAVE A
BIG FAT TRAIL,
EITHER.

LIKE
I SAID
...

NO.



YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN
WE WERE
KIDS...

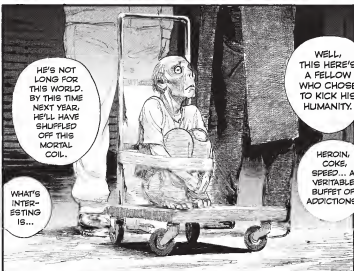


...IT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE
THAT YOU'D
COME BACK
TO THE SAME
SPOT IN THE
SAME VAN,
JUST TWO
DAYS LATER.

UPON
CALM
CONSIDERATION
...



...THEY
HAD THAT
COMMERCIAL
THAT WENT,
"WILL YOU KICK
THE DRUGS,
OR WILL YOU
KICK YOUR
HUMANITY?"

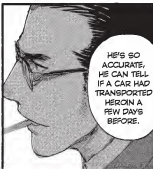


HE'S NOT
LONG FOR
THIS WORLD.
BY THIS TIME
NEXT YEAR,
HE'LL HAVE
SHUFFLED
OFF THIS
MORTAL
COIL.

WHAT'S
INTER-
ESTING
IS...

WELL,
THIS HERE'S
A FELLOW
WHO CHOSE
TO KICK HIS
HUMANITY.

HEROIN,
COKE,
SPEED... A
VERITABLE
BUFFET OF
ADDICTIONS.



HE'S SO
ACCURATE,
HE CAN TELL
IF A CAR HAD
TRANSPORTED
HEROIN A
FEW DAYS
BEFORE.



...THAT HE
CAN PRETTY
MUCH SNIFF
THEM OUT
HIMSELF, OUR
OWN LITTLE
DRUG
DOG.

...HE
LOVES HIS
DRUGS SO
DEARLY...



DON'T
TAKE IT
PERSONALLY...
WE JUST
WANT TO
BE SURE.

YOU
MIND IF
HE TAKES
A SNIFF
AROUND
YOUR
VAN?



LISTEN,
AZUMA-
SAN..



I'D
RATHER
NOT.



WE'RE
HERE FOR
BUSINESS.

...TO ENJOY
THE SALT
BREEZE OF
THE NIGHT.

WE'RE
NOT HERE
IN THIS
PORT...

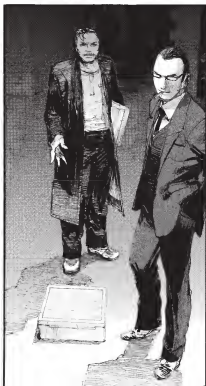


...A
WHOLE
15
MIN-
UTES.



...

THIS
POINTLESS
CHAT HAS
DELAYED
MY DEAL
BY...



I CAN'T
AFFORD
TO TAKE
ANY
EXTRA
TIME...

THUMP



A large, high-contrast black and white close-up of a man's face. He is wearing thick-rimmed glasses and has a serious, intense expression. His eyes are looking slightly to the left.

I'LL BUY A
MINUTE OF
YOUR TIME
WITH THAT.

TEN
MILLION
YEN.





I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
RAISING
CASH ON
THE SLY.

DOESN'T
THIS
DEFEAT
THE PUR-
POSE?



I JUST
DON'T
KNOW...

HMM...



...EVEN-
TUAL-
LY BE-
COMES
MORE
ABOUT
PRIDE
AND
HONOR.

A
THING
THAT
STARTS
OVER
MONEY
...

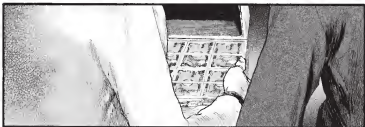
OH, YOU
KNOW
HOW IT
GOES.

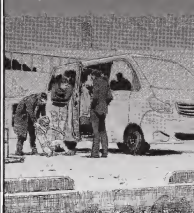


...THAT
THIS IS
ALSO
HUSH
MONEY.

I
HARDLY
THINK
I NEED
MEN-
TION...





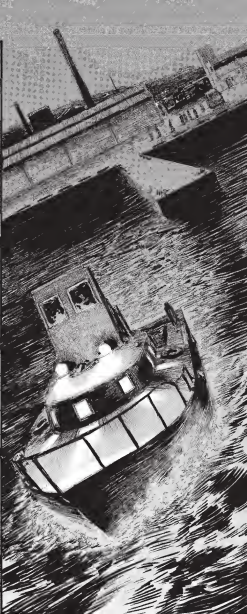
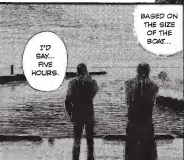


AND
HOW
WAS
IT?

DID
YOU FIND
ANYTHING
?



WE'RE JUST
GOING TO
TAKE OFF
WITH OUR
MONEY, SO...
ENJOY THE
REST!









OOPS.

THEN
WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN
...P



WELL,
IT'S OB-
VIOUS.



WAS
TALKING
TO DOBBY,
THE GUY
WHO GOT
US THIS
BOAT...

...AND HE
DIDN'T KNOW
A THING
ABOUT THIS
EVENT, AND
HE'S BEEN
CAMPED OUT
AT THAT
HARBOR.

I CAN'T
SPEAK FOR OTHER
COUNTRIES, BUT
IN 21ST-CENTURY
JAPAN, THE YAKUZA
DON'T BREAK OUT
GUNS OVER FIVE
KILOS OF DOPE.

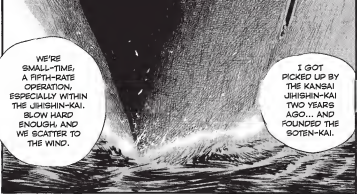


WHAT IT
MEANS...



...WHO
WE'RE
ABOUT
TO GO
MEET.

...IS
THAT
AZUMA
WANTS
TO
KNOW...



WE'RE
SMALL-TIME,
A FIFTH-RATE
OPERATION,
ESPECIALLY WITHIN
THE JIHISHIN-KAI.
BLOW HARD
ENOUGH, AND
WE SCATTER TO
THE WIND.

I GOT
PICKED UP BY
THE KANSAI
JIHISHIN-KAI
TWO YEARS
AGO... AND
FOUNDED THE
SOTEN-KAI.



THANKS
TO THOSE
GERMANS
AND THAT
ISLAND.

BUT WE DO
HAVE MONEY—
THE SIZE OF
OUR JOB
OUTCLASSES
THE KAKESU-
GUMI.

MONEY
GROWS ON
THAT ISLE:
ISHIKU-
NAGIJIMA.



AND
ONCE
THEY
KNOW
...

...THEY
WANT
TO SEIZE
OUR
SHARE.

THAT'S
WHAT
THIS IS
ABOUT.

THE
KAKESU-
GUMI
WANT TO
KNOW
...

...WHAT
SORT OF
DEALS ARE
GOING ON
BETWEEN
THEM AND
THE BOTEN-
KAI.



...TO
MAKE
MORE
MONEY
THAN THEY
EARN IN
THEIR
LINE OF
WORK.

THEY
WANNA
KNOW
WHAT WE'RE
SELLING
...



THEY
THINK THEY'VE
ACTUALLY
GOT US RIGHT
WHERE THEY
WANT US.

FORTU-
NATELY,
THEY'RE
FIRST-RATE
BUNGLERS.



WE DON'T
WANT THEM
TO KNOW
WHERE
WE'RE
MEETING
...

SHINDO-
SAN,
SHOULDN'T
WE TOSS
THAT
THING
OVER-
BOARD?

I KNOW,
I KNOW,
I'M A
TIGHTWAD
SON OF A
BITCH.



HA
HA
HA
...



IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, WE CAN TOSS THE ENTIRE CASE INTO THE WATER.



NULLIFIES THE GPS AND BUG BOTH, ALL ON ITS OWN.

IT'S A GPS JAMMER.

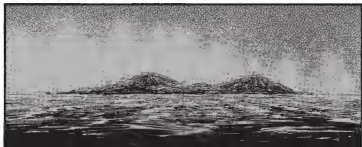


THAT THING I JUST TOSSED IN THE BRIEF-CASE.



...FOR GETTING RID OF MONEY.

BUT MY DICTIONARY'S GOT NO WORD...







THEY WERE
ONLY AT
SEA FOR
TWENTY
MINUTES!

IT'S
ALREADY
GONE!



NO...
ACTU-
ALLY

WE
INTENDED
FOR THEM
TO SPOT THE
TRANSMITTER
IN THE CASE...
I THINK.



HOW
DID THE
SOTEN-KAI
SNIFF US
OUT SO
FAST?!

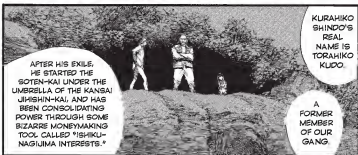


AS
LONG AS
THEY DON'T
THROW THEM
INTO THE SEA
ENTIRELY,
WE'RE FINE.



...IT'S *THE*
KURAHIKO
SHINDO
HANDLING
THE TRANS-
ACTION
TONIGHT.

FROM
WHAT
AZUMA-
SAN
SAID...



AFTER HIS EXILE,
HE STARTED THE
GOTEN-KAI UNDER THE
UMBRELLA OF THE KANSAI
JIHISHIN-KAI, AND HAS
BEEN CONSOLIDATING
POWER THROUGH SOME
BIZARRE MONEYMAKING
TOOL CALLED "ISHIKU-
NAGIUMA INTERESTS."

KURAHIKO
SHINDO'S
REAL
NAME IS
TORAHIKO
KUDO.

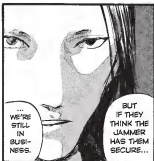
A
FORMER
MEMBER
OF OUR
GANG.



THEY
CAN
OFFER THE
WHOLE
CHUNK
TO THE
BOSSSES.

SURELY
THEY'D
JUMP
AT AN
EASY 20
MILLION
YEN.

BUT
IT'S STILL
A NEW
GROUP ON
UNCERTAIN
FOOTING
WITHIN THE
JIHISHIN-
KAI.



...
WE'RE
STILL
IN
BUSI-
NESS.

BUT
IF THEY
THINK THE
JAMMER
HAS THEM
SECURE...

IF THEY'RE
BORED
ENOUGH
TO USE
THAT TIME
TO CLEAN
ALL 2,000
BILLS, WE'RE
SCREWED.



NOW,
IT'S A FIVE-
HOUR
TRIP TO
THIS IS-
LAND FROM
THE PIER.



WHY
DO SO
MANY
NOW
MAKE
LIGHT
OF IT?

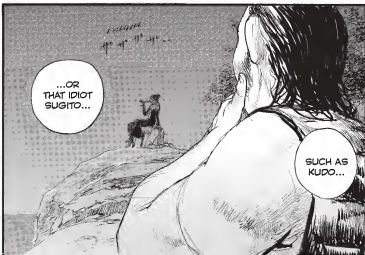
REVERENCE
FOR DUTY
AND
OBLIGATION
IS THE
CORNER-
STONE OF
THE YAKUZA.



NO, A
SHIT.

PHEW...
STILL.

WERE
YOU
TAKING
A
PISSP



...OR
THAT IDIOT
SUGITO...

SUCH AS
KUDO...



I'M
FEELING
MORE
SADISTIC
BY THE
MINUTE.

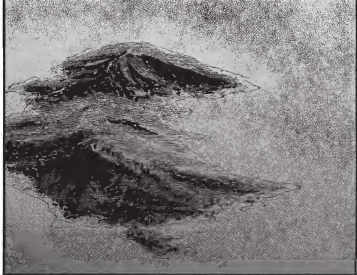
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH!

SHINOBU-
SAN,
I LOVE
YOU!!



#4

Nachtangriff
(Night Attack)





WEL-
COMB.
SHINDO-
SAN.

MY
ASS IS
KILLING
ME.



THE
YAKUZA
ARE THE
SAME
WAY.



SOME-
ONE
THEY'VE
BEEN
SEARCH-
ING
FOR.



WHO'S
THE
GIRL
?



I
SUP-
POSE
NOT...

APPAR-
ENTLY
NOT ALL
OF THEIR
PEOPLE
ARE ON
THE SAME
PAGE.



OH
P!

AH!

LOOK,
IT'S
BACK
ON!

WHICH
PORT
P!



pop! 110 y!



SHI-
NOBU!

IT'S
KANAN
PORT
HAIYAN!

UMM...
N
STANDS
FOR
NORTH
RIGHT
...P



YEAH,
YEAH.

WE NEED
YOU TO
SHOW US
THE WAY.



WELL
...

IT'S A
SMALL
ISLAND.

EVEN
INCLUDING
THAT ONE,
THERE'S
ONLY
THREE.



SARU
PORT,
KANAN
PORT
...

...AND THEN
THIS PORT ON
THE NORTHERN
COAST THAT
ONLY FIVE OR
SIX FISHERMEN
USE.



MAKES IT
THAT MUCH
HARDER
TO FIGURE
OUT WHERE
THEY'LL
LAND AT
FIRST.

I DON'T
LIKE THAT
THERE ARE
THREE
DIFFERENT
PORTS.

OUR FIRST
GOAL UPON
LANDING ON
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA IS DETER-
MINING THE
LOCATION OF
THE SOTEN-
KAI'S DEAL.



AND
KURAHIKO
SHINDO, THE
SOTEN-KAI'S
REPRESENTA-
TIVE, ONCE
SHARED HIS
SAKAZUKI
VOWS
WITH OUR
GROUP.



...THAT THE
ISLAND HAS
LITERALLY
BEEN THE
SOTEN-KAI'S
"TERRITORY"
FOR THE
LAST TWO
OR THREE
YEARS.

YOU'VE
BEEN AWAY
FROM YOUR
HOME LONG
ENOUGH
THAT YOU
MIGHT
NOT BE
AWARE...



YOU'RE A
YAKUZA. WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST BRING
ENOUGH
PEOPLE TO
SECURE ALL
THREE OF
THEM?

?





YOU
FOUR.



YOU'RE
IN NO
POSITION
TO MAKE
DE-
MANDS
!!

...WHAT
IS IT?



HMM... I
DUNNO.

MAYBE
I'LL HELP
ON ONE
CONDITION.



YOU WILL
BE OUR
GUIDE,
SHINOBU.







YOU
HAVE
SUGITO,
TOO.

THAT
DOESN'T
CHANGE
MY
OPINION!

DON'T
WORRY.

I DO
NOT
WANT
TO PAIR
UP WITH
HER!!

BUT EVEN
WITH THE
THREE OF
THEM ON
ONE PORT
I CAN'T
HELP BUT
WORRY

NEITHER
DO I.



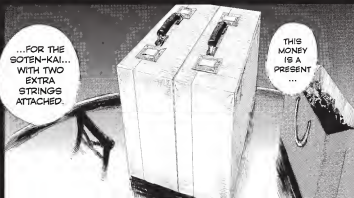
IT'S THE
MONEY
YOU AND
SUGITO
TOOK.

WAIT...
IS
THAT—P



WE'RE
USING
THIS.

WE'RE
NOT
SPLITTING
YOU UP IN
ENEMY
TERRI-
TORY



...FOR THE
SOTEN-KAI...
WITH TWO
EXTRA
STRINGS
ATTACHED.

THIS
MONEY
IS A
PRESENT
...

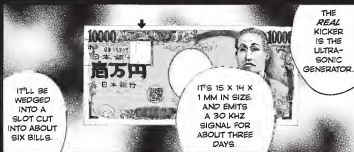


... WILL BE PLACED IN AN OBVIOUS LOCATION, LIKE THE UNDERSIDE OF THE CASE INTERIOR.

THE TRANSMITTER ...

THE OTHER IS AN ULTRASONIC GENERATOR.

ONE IS YOUR GARDEN-VARIETY TRANSMITTER.



IT'LL BE WEDGED INTO A SLOT CUT INTO ABOUT SIX BILLS.

IT'S 15 X 14 X 1 MM IN SIZE, AND EMITS A 30 KHZ SIGNAL FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS.

THE REAL KICKER IS THE ULTRASONIC GENERATOR.



IT'S GOING TO BE PLACED IN JUST ONE OF THE TWENTY STACKS HERE.

SO THERE'S NO WORRY ABOUT THE CASE ITSELF BLOCKING THE ULTRASONIC SIGNAL.

THE HINGE OF THE CASE IS ALTERED SO THAT THERE'S A LITTLE GAP, EVEN WITH THE LID CLOSED.

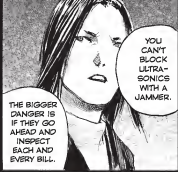


THERE HAS TO BE A SPACE FOR THE ULTRASONIC WAVES TO ESCAPE ...



...SO IT WON'T JUST SLIP OUT OF THE HOLE.

...BUT IT'S STUCK INTO THE PAPER ...



THE BIGGER DANGER IS IF THEY GO AHEAD AND INSPECT EACH AND EVERY BILL.

YOU CAN'T BLOCK ULTRA-SONICS WITH A JAMMER.



...WHAT IF THEY USE A JAMMER JUST IN CASE, AFTER THEY SPOT THE DUMMY TRANSMITTER P

BUT THEN...



WE KNOW FROM RESEARCH THAT SHINDO VISITS ISHIKUNAGIJIMA AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MONTH.

THE DEAL'S IN THREE DAYS.



SHOW EVERYONE THE BAG, SOLI.

BUT WE'LL HAVE YOU FIVE ON THE ISLAND A DAY EARLIER.



THIS IS SIMPLY A PLAN THAT WE FEEL GIVES US A 60-70% CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

THAT IS A CONCERN, OF COURSE. IF IT HAPPENS, WE'LL NEED TO ADJUST.



SO WE WILL NEED DETECTORS AT SHORT INTERVALS.

THE DOWNSIDE OF THE ULTRASONIC IS THAT IT DOESN'T CARRY VERY FAR COMPARED TO REGULAR WAVES.



WHAT'S THIS?



...AS
NATURALLY
AS YOU CAN.
YOU ARE
TOURISTS.

YOU
WILL PLACE
THESE EVERY
50 METERS,
ALONG EVERY
ROUTE FROM
THE PORTS
INTO THE
ISLAND...



THE
TOURISTS
ONLY
COME IN
THROUGH
SARU...

WE
CAN SEE
'EM!

IT WAS
AN INSANE
REQUEST
BUT I'M GLAD
WE PLAYED
ALONG.

SHINOBU-
SAN.

NEVER FOR
THE REST
OF MY LIFE...
WILL I FORGET
WHAT WE
JUST WENT
THROUGH.



YET OUR
HEARTS ARE
AS ONE...
I'M SO
HAPPY.

WE DON'T
HAVE A
PHYSICAL
RELATION-
SHIP, AND
WE ONLY
GOT DRUNK
TOGETHER.

WHAT
P!



HEH HEH...
WHAT
WOULD
YOU SAY
WE ARE?

I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT MY
FINGERS
BEING
CUT ANY
FURTHER.



Y...
YES
P!

HUH
P

LISTEN,
RO-SAN.



I'M
JUST AN
INNOCENT
CIVILIAN...
UNARMED.

...P

THE
GUYS
WE'RE
AFTER ARE
YAKUZA...
THEY'RE
ARMED.

THE
PEOPLE
WE'RE
WITH ARE
YAKUZA...
THEY'RE
ARMED.

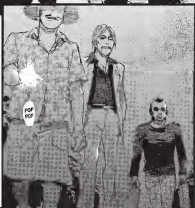


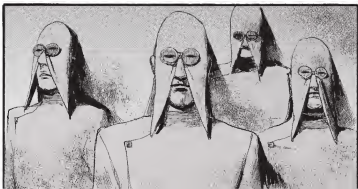
HA HA...
YEAH...



IT
MAKES ME
NERVOUS
NOT TO HAVE
A SHIELD...
UNDERSTAND
P







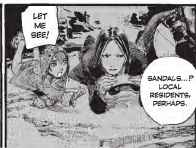




**„DAS IST EINE TAT!
JAPANISCH YAKUZA
IST TÜCHTIG.“**

(THE JAPANESE YAKUZA DO
GOOD WORK. THAT'S A FACT!)









WE
PICKED
UP SOLI
SEVEN
YEARS
AGO...

IT'S NOT
DIAGNOSED,
BUT THE
SYMPTOMS
ARE CLOSE.



WAARDEN-
BURG
SYNDROME
?



IT
HAPPENED IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT,
WITHOUT HIS MEN.
AS HE LEFT HIS
LOVER'S HOME,
SO THERE
WERE NO
WITNESSES.

AT THE TIME,
THERE WAS A
CONFLICT BETWEEN
THE KAKESU-
GUMI'S BASE
ORGANIZATION,
THE TAIHO-KAI,
AND SOME
MOBSTERS
FROM THE
KANSAI AREA.

EXCEPT
FOR ONE
PERSON...
A
HOMELESS
GIRL.

ONE OF THE
RIGHT-HAND-
MEN TO THE
TAIHO-KAI'S
NEXT LEADER IN
WAITING WAS
KILLED.



THEY ENDED
UP BEATING
HER UNTIL
SHE WENT
MOTIONLESS,
THEN DUMPED
HER BACK IN
THE STREET.



THE MEN
WENT CRAZY
LOOKING FOR
THE KILLER.
NATURALLY
THEY
QUESTIONED
THE GIRL....

IN TIMES
LIKE THAT
WHEN YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHO'S
PULLING THE
STRINGS,
ANY CARE-
LESS ACTION
CAN LEAD TO
WAR.

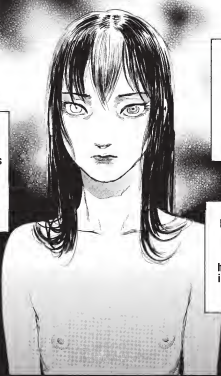
...BUT
SHE SIMPLY
WOULD NOT
SPEAK, FOR
WHATEVER
REASON.



HE SIMPLY
TOLD ME THE
NAME OF THE
AFFLICTION
I JUST
MENTIONED TO
YOU.



I DECIDED TO
VISIT THE MURDER
SCENE ON THE WAY
BACK FROM AN OF-
FICER'S MEETING.
I PICKED UP THE
HALF-
DEAD GIRL, AND
TOOK HER TO A
DOCTOR.



The amount of hearing trouble varies by person, but in Soli's case, it was significant.

Waardenburg syndrome is a genetic disorder affecting both men and women.

She was almost entirely deaf—she could not hear.

It is recognized by a lock of white hair on the forehead, heterochromatic irises, and often hearing loss.



SHE TOOK AN ODD LIKING TO ME.

DAVEY



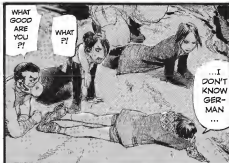
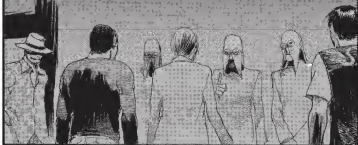
SO IN APOLOGY FOR THAT...

...I GAVE HER A PRIVATE APARTMENT THE SYNDICATE OWNED.



...SHE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE KILLING UNTIL AFTER THE KILLER HAD LEFT.

SO SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE MEN WERE ASKING HER. MORE IMPORTANTLY ...





BUT...

HOW WOULD
A DEAL OF ANY EX-
ISTING DRUGS
BE ABLE TO REAP
THEM SUCH IMPOS-
SIBLE PROFITS?
IT MAKES NO
SENSE.



I FIGURED
THIS WAS
JUST A DRUG
DEAL WITH
SOMEONE
FROM ASIA.

HMM.
GERMAN.



MAYBE
THEY FOUND
THE EARLIEST
ROUTE TO GET
IT INTO JAPAN.
THE TIMELINE
MATCHES UP WITH
WHEN THE
SOTEN-KAI
STARTED.

WHAT
IF IT'S
NOT AN
EXISTING
DRUG?

IT COULD
BE LIKE
THAT DRUG
KROKOIL
THAT SPREAD
THROUGHOUT
RUSSIA OVER
THE LAST
THREE YEARS.



YES...
THAT'S
TRUE,
BUT...



BUT THE
GERMAN
PART...

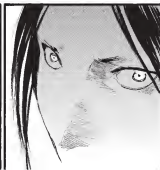
THERE
ARE MANY
COUNTRIES
THAT SPEAK
GERMAN OR
A SIMILAR-
SOUNDING
LANGUAGE.

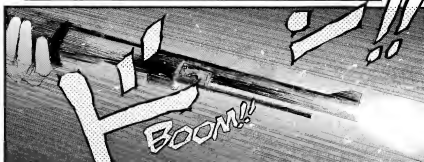
GERMANY
IS NOT
A DRUG-
PRODUCING
COUNTRY.



I SEE...
AND THE
ISLAND IS
CLOSE TO
VLADIVO-
STOK.









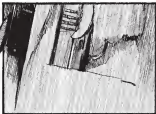


HÖRT!

**RACHE-
GÖTTER,
HÖRT DER
MÜTTER
SCHWUR!**



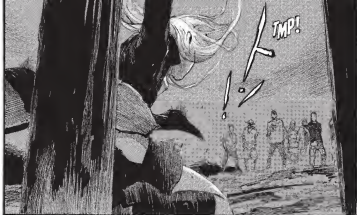


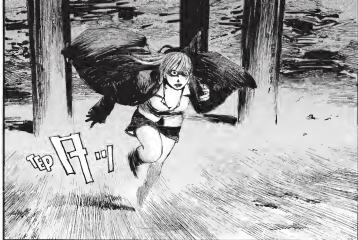






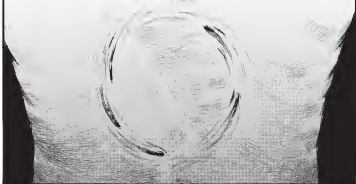








HÖRT







O Weh-











ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO ASSUME THAT THE BUG AND THIS ATTACKER ARE UNRELATED?



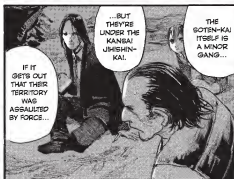
HUH P

THE
GOTEN-KAI
ALREADY KNOW
THAT THE
BRIEFCASES
FROM
AZUMA-SAN
WERE
BUGGED.



WAIT A SECOND.

ISN'T THIS REALLY BAD FOR YOU PEOPLE?



IF IT GETS OUT THAT THEIR TERRITORY WAS ASSAULTED BY FORCE...

...BUT THEY'RE UNDER THE KANSAI JIHSIN-KAI.

THE
GOTEN-KAI
ITSELF IS A MINOR GANG...



... SHE'S RIGHT.

THIS IS BAD, HAIYAN ...





IF THERE ARE
ONE OR TWO
MORE DEAD
BODIES DOWN
THERE...

...WE CAN
BLAME
IT ALL
ON THAT
ATTACKER.



IWA-
SUGA-
SAN.

THIS
IS THE
CROSS-
ROAD.



...ALL
THREE OF THE
SOTEN-
KAI
MUST
DIE.

IF
WE
DO
THIS
...



NO,
HAIYAN,
WAIT.

EVEN IF WE
SUCCEED IN
STEALING
THEIR GOODS,
IT MEANS
NOTHING IN
THE WAKE OF
THE INCIDENT
AT THE PIER.

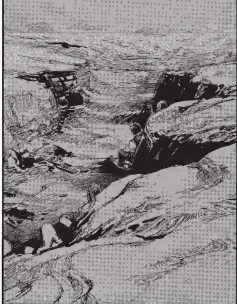


I GOTTA GET
OUTTA THIS
BUSINESS
ONCE I'M
BACK...

I'M
NOT LIKE
THESE
PEOPLE
...

WASN'T THE
WHOLE POINT
TO LEARN THE
TRUTH WITHOUT
THEM REALIZ-
ING IT?!

WAIT...
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
P?!



IT'S
PITCH-
BLACK
OUT
THERE!
DOES SHE
HAVE CAT
EYES?!

WHAT
THE
FUCK
!!



GWANG



...LIKE
SHE DON'T
WANT
ANYTHING
BUT THE
LIGHT OF
THE MOON
OVERHEAD!

SHE'S
CUTTING
DOWN
EVERY
LAST
PERSON
WITH A
LIGHT...



DIDN'T YOU
GET A LOOK
AT HER FACE
THROUGH
THE MUZZLE
FLASHES?

IT'S
NIGHT-
VISION
GOG-
GLES,
IDIOT!



SHINDO-
SAN.

SHE'S
ATTACKING
THE SITE OF
OUR DEAL...

SOMETHING
RUBS ME THE
WRONG WAY
ABOUT THAT
WOMAN...



IT LOOKS
LIKE HER
PRIORITY
IS PEOPLE...
PARTICULARLY
THOSE
FELLAS IN
WHITE OVER
THERE.

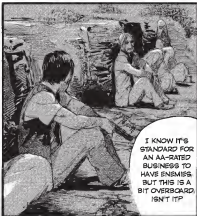
...BUT
DOESN'T
SEEM
INTER-
ESTED
IN THE
GOODS.

THE
MONEY,
EITHER.



...VEN-
GEANCE.

HUH
P?



I KNOW IT'S
STANDARD FOR
AN AA-RATED
BUSINESS TO
HAVE ENEMIES.
BUT THIS IS A
BIT OVERBOARD.
ISN'T IT?



**Rachegötter, Hörst der
Mutter Schwur!**

(GOES OF VENGEANCE,
HEAR THE MOTHER'S OATH!)

IT'S
A LINE
FROM
THE
MAGIC
FLUTE.



THAT'S
WHAT
SHE SAID
BEFORE
SHE
JUMPED
DOWN.



<AT LEAST A
HUNDRED.>



<ANY IDEAS
OF WHAT
THAT COULD
MEAN?>







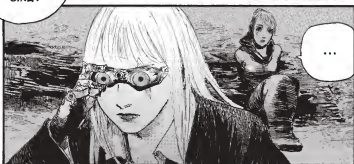
I'LL SAVE
YOU IF I'M
ABLE. JUST
WAIT HERE
LIKE A GOOD
GIRL!



CAN'T
UNDO THIS
WITHOUT
A KEY...



THUD!



...



SHIT! WE
GOT CUT OFF
FROM THE
SOTEN-KAI!

DAMN,
THEY'RE
HEAVY!

BOV!

BOV!



IF
THEY'RE
GONNA
KILL
ANYONE,
KILL
HER!

WE JUST
DID WHAT THE
SOTEN-KAI
TOLD US
TO DO!

...ARE
WE ALL
GONNA
DIE?



HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN
P!

AHH,
GOD-
DAMNIT!
THIS IS
JUST
GREAT.



THIS HAS
BROUGHT
THEY ILLAGE
MONEY...

BUT...



I'M
SUR-
PRISED
YOU
CAN
SAY
THAT.



WHAT
THE HELL
WOULD WE
DO WITH
THEM?

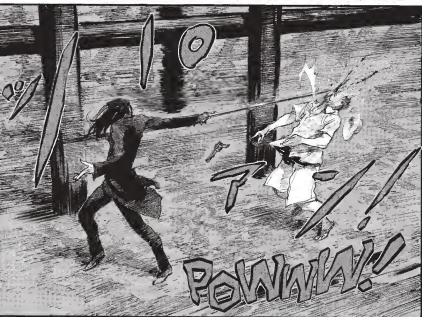
IT
MIGHT
AS
WELL
BE
GAR-
BAGE
TO US.

SHOULD
WE TAKE
THESE
BACK
HOMEP











NOTHING
HERE!

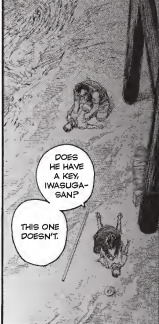


THUPPA
/ 1" 7 / 1" 7 /



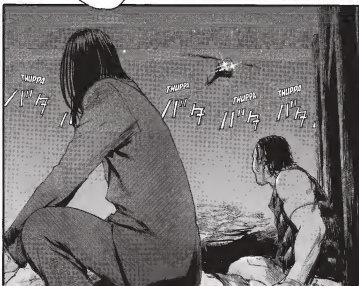
ALL WE
NEED IS TO
IDENTIFY
THEM! THE
CONDITION
DOESN'T
MATTER...

VERY WELL.
WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO
TAKE THEM
BACK AND
PRY THEM
OPEN.



DOES
HE HAVE
A KEY,
IWASUGA-
SAN?

THIS ONE
DOESN'T.



THUPPA

THUPPA

THUPPA

THUPPA



<IT'S YOUR
BOSS'S
GUARD DOG,
OF COURSE.>

<WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?>

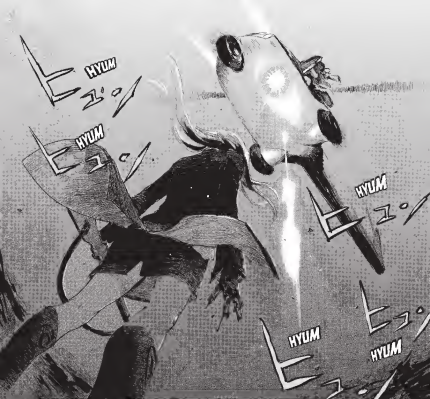


AHA!
THERE
THEY
ARE!

<WHAT DID
YOU CALL
FOR?>

I'LL HAVE
TO KEEP IN
MIND HOW
LONG THAT
TOOK.







#6

Ansharen
(Assassin)



◀IT MIGHT BE
REMOTE, BUT
THIS IS STILL
JAPAN.▶

◀LIKE
SOME
KIND OF
MOVIE?▶

◀...WHAT'S
THAT
CHOPPER
DOING?▶

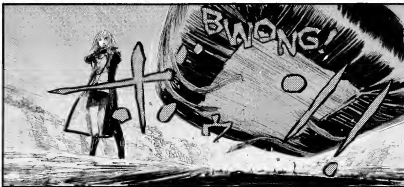
◀I THOUGHT
THEY WOULD
OPEN WITH
MACHINE
GUN FIRE.▶

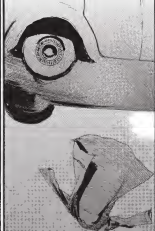
◀BUT IT'S
NOT A PATIENT
OR A DOCTOR
RIDING ON
THAT THING.▶

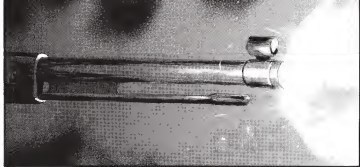
◀IT'S THE SAME
MODEL AS THE
MEDICAL COPTER
HERE ON THE
ISLAND.▶

◀LESS
SUSPICION
FROM THE
LOCALS
THAT WAY,
I SUPPOSE.▶







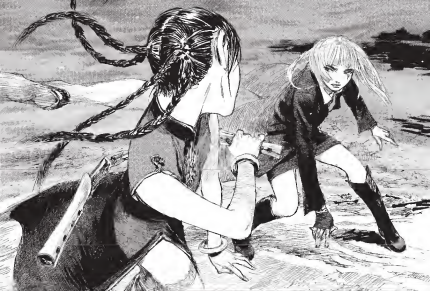






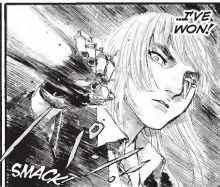
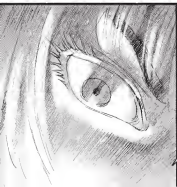






IF I CAN
CATCH IT WITH
MY RIGHT HAND,
RATHER THAN
DODGING...

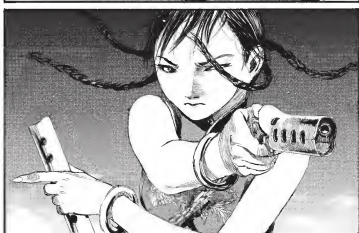
IT'S A
BARE-LEG
KICK.

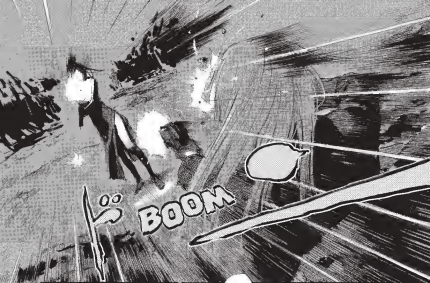


...I'VE
WON!

SMACK!









WHOA...

NEVER
SEEN
WOMEN
FIGHT
LIKE *THAT*
BEFORE...



OH,
IT'S
AZUMA-
SAN!

THERE'S
RECEP-
TION
HERE?



YOU
DON'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY.

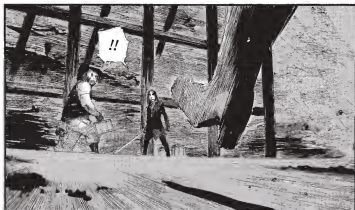
WANNA
LAY
BETS
ON
WHO'LL
WIN?

HA
HA HA...
YA GOT
ME.

I'M
JUST
THE
DOG.

I STILL
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE.









WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
TAKING
THOSE
CASES
P



YOU'RE
NOT
FROM
THE
ISLAND
P





I WAS
HOPING
TO KEEP THE
KILLING TO
JUST THE
SOTEN-KAI...
BUT IT
SEEMS WE
HAVE NO
CHOICE.

IWA-
SUGA-
SAN...

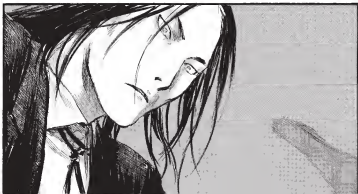


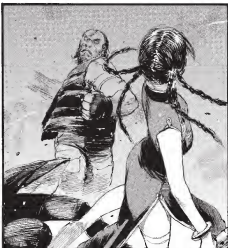
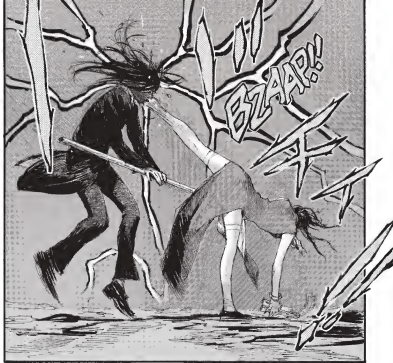
WHAT A
NIGHT.

TWO
GROUPS
IN ONE
EVENING
...







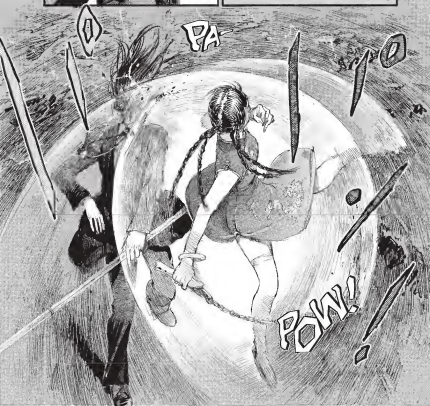


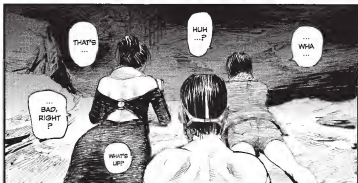












#7 - **Blut** (Blood)





OR WAS SHE JUST
A DISTRACTION... AND
THESE WERE
THE REAL
TARGETS?



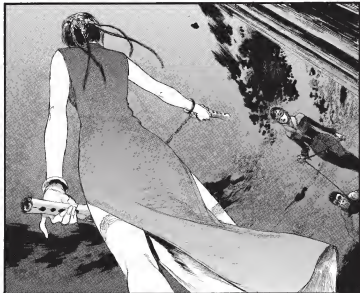
...THEY
DIDN'T
COME
SHOOT-
ING.

MAYBE
THEY'RE
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
WOMAN
EARLIER.











WE DON'T
KNOW IF
THEY'RE
DEAD.

ER, NO,
THEY JUST
STOPPED
MOVING...

THEY TRIED
TO TAKE
THE CASES
AND GOT
KILLED?



ASIAN
WOMAN
IN A
QIPAO



AND THE
SEC-
OND
HIT-
MAN?

OH,
THEY
WERE
BOTH
WOMEN!

YOUNG, ASIAN,
WEARING A
QIPAO. USED...
NUNCHAKU? ALSO SHOT
GUNS, I THINK...



WHITE,
BLONDE,
DRESSED
ALL IN
BLACK,
WITH AN
OLD
RIFLE!

WHAT
WAS
THE
FIRST
HITMAN
LIKE?



SHI-
NO-
BU!



Y-YES.

SHE'S
DRESSED TO BE
UNMISTAK-
ABLE, EVEN IN
DARKNESS.

WITH
THE
DOG.

IS
SHINOBU
DRESSED
UP LIKE I
ORDERED?



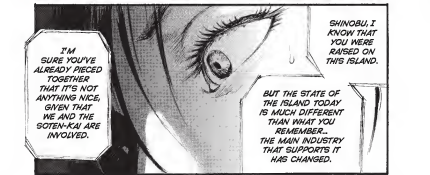
SHINOBU!
YOU
UNDER-
STAND
THE
SITUATION.

YOU
MUST
PREVENT
THAT
AT ALL
COSTS!

UH...
RIGHT.

THE
WORST CASE
SCENARIO IS
IF SHE KILLS
IWASUGA AND
HAIYAN, GRABS
THE CASES,
THEN GETS
CHASED BY
THE BLONDE.

IF THE
ASIAN HITMAN
IGNORES
IWASUGA,
HAIYAN, AND
THE SPILLED
CASES TO GO
AFTER THE
BLONDE
HITMAN,
THAT'S FINE.



I'M
SURE YOU'VE
ALREADY PIECED
TOGETHER
THAT IT'S NOT
ANYTHING NICE,
GIVEN THAT
WE AND THE
SOTEN-KAI ARE
INVOLVED.

SHINOBU, I
KNOW THAT
YOU WERE
RAISED ON
THIS ISLAND.

BUT THE STATE OF
THE ISLAND TODAY
IS MUCH DIFFERENT
THAN WHAT YOU
REMEMBER...
THE MAIN INDUSTRY
THAT SUPPORTS IT
HAS CHANGED.

...S
PROSTITUTES.

...AND
ITS MOST
PRECIOUS
RESOURCE...

THE
MAIN
EXPORT
OF THE
ISLAND
...



ARE YOU
FROM THE
NAADAM
HOTEL?

...



AREN'T YOU
JAPANESE
SUPPOSED
TO BE CON-
SIDERATE?

FIND
SOME
OTHER
PLACE
FOR YOUR
NIGHTTIME
STROLL.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

NO,
NO, NO,
YOU'VE
GOT IT
WRONG!

ER...
UH...



THEY SAID
I SHOULD
EXPERIENCE
A DEAL
IN PERSON,
FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE.

UH... I
MEAN, YES,
I WORK AT
NAADAM
HOTEL...

...BUT I'M
ON LOAN
TO THAT...
TIED-UP
GENTLE-
MAN.



YOU
PROBABLY
SHOULD
HAVE
STAYED
HIDDEN.

UH...
YEAH,
THAT'S MY
PLAN, BUT
BEFORE
THAT...

THE
AREA
ISN'T
SAFE,
YET.



VERY
SHOCK-
ING...
A GUN-
FIGHT
AND
EVERY-
THING
...

THEN
THOSE TWO
WEIRDOOS
CAME... SO
I PANICKED
AND HID.



A
WHORE
?!



AND YOU
DON'T WANT
TO JUST
ABANDON
THE SCENE
HERE.

YOU
PROBABLY
HAVE TO GO
CHASE AFTER
THAT OTHER
WOMAN, I
ASSUME...

...I WAS
GOING TO
HAND THOSE
CASES OVER
TO OUR
TRADING
PARTNER.
WHAT DO
YOU SAY?



SHINDO-
SAN,
RIGHT?

OH... I
KNOW
WHO
THESE
GO TO.

IN THE
WHITE
SUIT...

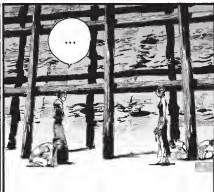
WAIT...
WAS IT
KUDOP



SHE
IS NOT
BUYING
THIS...

OH,
CRAP
...

...WELL,
WHO
WOULD
?



...



...THEN
THE "DOG"
HERE IS MY
CUSTOMER.

SHE COULD ASK
ME, "WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
DOING BRINGING
A CUSTOMER
TO A DEAL?"



I
KNOW
THE
NAADAM
HOTEL
...

...IS ONE OF THOSE
SEX SHOPS THAT
DOES THE WHOLE
"DOMINATRIX AND
DOG" THING,
ACCORDING TO
AZUMA-SAN...

BUT IF I'M
THE DOMME,
AND AN
EMPLOYEE
OF THE
BUSINESS...



BUT IF I
LOOK AWAY,
SHE'LL
KILL ME...
I THINK.

SHIT
...

SHE'S
SO
SCARY
...



CAN
YOU...





...TELL ME
THE NAME
OF THAT
PERSON?



THE ONE
WHO RUNS
THE PRO-
MOTIONAL
COMMIT-
TEE...

THAT'S
TAMORI-
SAN...

...FROM
KANAN...

...OH,
RIGHT, I
FORGOT!

I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
THE
PREVIOUS
HEAD.

怎么!?

(JUMP)

WHO IS
THAT...?
ONE OF
THE NEW
RESIDENTS
?

OH,
PLEASE
GOD...

DON'T LET
HER ASK
ABOUT THE
YOUNGER
ONE BEHIND
HIM!

...I...

THEN...

WHAT
ABOUT THE
YOUNGER
MAN OVER
HERE?



AH...
WELL,
HE'S
...



AND
P

WHAT'S
WITH
HIM?



...OH,
NEVER
MIND...
I DON'T
KNOW
HIM,
EITHER.

WHEW



IF YOU'D PREFER
NOT TO HAVE
A MAN FROM A
DIFFERENT COUNTRY
SEE YOUR DEAL,
TRADING
PARTNERS
THOUGH WE
MIGHT BE, I'LL
LEAVE AND BEG
FORGIVENESS...

...



IF IT'S A
START-UP
OPERATION
TRYING TO
MAKE A NAME
FOR THEM-
SELVES
...

OF
COURSE



SUGITO,
RIGHT-HAND-
MAN TO THE
NEXT LEADER
OF THE KANSAI
JIH'SHIN-KAI.

...I HAVE
BEEN MERE
LIVESTOCK,
AS YOU
CAN SEE.

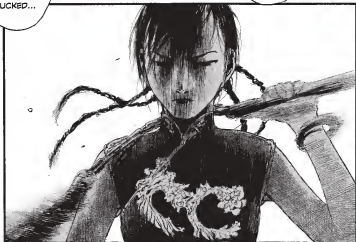
EVER SINCE
SHINDO-SAN
INVITED US TO
THIS ISLAND
LONG AGO...

AND IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO MEN FROM
THE PARENT
ORGANIZATION
ON THIS ISLAND,
THE SOTEN-KAI
WOULD BE
FUCKED...

WHO
Said
YOU
COULD
BREAK
HUMAN
WORDS
OF

OF
COURSE, IF
SHE CALLS
FOR VER-
IFICATION,
WE'RE DONE
FOR... BUT
SHE HAS
NO TIME
TO WASTE
NOW.

...THEN IT
WOULD MAKE
SENSE FOR
THEM TO
INVITE HIGH-
RANKING
MEMBERS OF
THE PARENT
ORGANI-
ZATION TO
THEIR OWN
PLEASURES
DISTRICT.





WAIT...
WHAT
?!

HUH...
HUH...
?!



NO...

WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?
DID I..

DID I
SAY THE
WRONG
THING
?!



OKAY,
STOP
FOR A
MOMENT
...



NO
WAY!

NOT
FROM
THAT
SHORT
OF A...



...OR
WAS
IT
YOU
?!







DUI
BU
QI.

I
GUESS YOU
REALLY ARE
FROM THIS
ISLAND.

...HUHP



...WHY
NOT JUST
TAKE THEM
BACK INTO
TOWN?

FINE...
YOU CAN
HANDLE
THE
CASES.

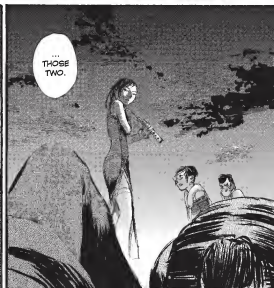
IF
IT'S TOO
HARD TO
MEET UP
WITH THE
SOTEN-
KAI...



AND...

THE
ONE-
EYED
WOMAN.

I HAVE
SOME
THINGS
TO TAKE
CARE OF.



...
THOSE
TWO.



UH...

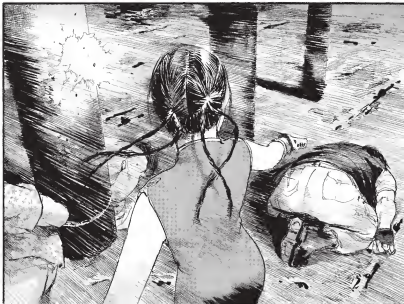
...IT'S
NO
USE...

...LIKE,
DO I EVEN
HAVE AN
OBLIGATION
TO SAVE
THEM?

I
CAN'T
SAVE
THEM...
AS A
MATTER
OF
FACT...

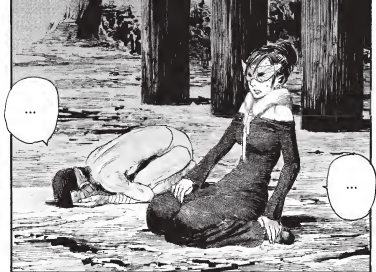
...UH...

UHH...!















JA.

CARE YOU WITH
"HILL-MYNA"?>



<SORRY IF
YOUR SKIN
GETS BURNT>

<THERE'S
NO KEY, SO
I NEED TO
SHOOT THE
LOCK OFF>

OHUN? UN,
OKAY>

HYUM

HYUM

HYUM



<A NEWS-
PAPER?>



<THE
SOTEN-
KAIP>

<ACH, JA! I WAS
SCHEDULED TO
MEET WITH A
NEWSPAPER ON
THE MAINLAND,
BUT WHILE I
WAS ON THE
WAY THERE...>



<I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
ANY STICK-MAN.
IT WAS YAKUZA
CALLED THE
SOTEN-KAI>

<WAS IT
THE ONE-EYED
WOMAN WHO
DID THIS?> OR
THE STICK-
WIELDING
YAKUZAP>

Light
this
scene
work



<JA... ABOUT
A MEDICAL
PRODUCT
THAT MY
COMPANY
SELLS...>



*<I JUST
CAN'T STAY
SILENT ABOUT
IT... AND
RETAIN MY
HUMANITY.>*

*<IT'S SO
DREAD-
FUL...>*



WASP







GIVE
ME A
DETAILED
DESCRIP-
TION
OF THAT
MAN AND
WOMAN.



WHAT...
IS THIS
...P!



...WHA...

Die Wergelder



Das Ende

To be continued in Volume 2









DIE WER GELDER²



Hiroaki Samura

The story thus far...

In Hwamei, a pleasure district in China, a prostitute kills a customer and flees. Meanwhile, in Japan, a bottom-level yakuza in the Kakesu-gumi named Sugito steals some of the syndicate's money and plots to elope with a "bad bitch" drifter named Shinobu, but the escape is quickly foiled. Azuma, a Kakesu-gumi lieutenant, offers Shinobu her life if she helps them steal the "product" of an illicit deal in her hometown, the island of Ishikunagijima. Reluctantly, Shinobu visits the island with Soli, Iwasuga and Haiyan, only to witness one of the business partners get shot in the middle of the deal. The shooter was none other than Trane, the killer prostitute who escaped from Hwamei. The business partners fight back as the kung-fu assassin Jie Mao arrives via helicopter to back them up. The battle between Trane and Jie Mao draws Iwasuga and Haiyan into its midst. With a little luck and some quick thinking, Shinobu manages to make off with the "product" for the rest of the team!!



NAMI SAVRASOVA

A one-eyed sniper with a prosthetic hand. Real name, Trane.



SHINOBU AZA

A bad bitch without a home or job. Hails from Ishikunagijima.



AZUMA

Next leader of the Kakesu-gumi, a tertiary arm of the wide-ranging Taiho-kai syndicate.



JIE MAO

A kung-fu-wielding contract killer working for the Hui-Myna Corporation.



RO SUGITO

A low-level thug in the Kakesu-gumi.



SOLI KIL

The Kakesu-gumi's torturer.



IWASUGA

A guest of the Kakesu-gumi.
A mighty, chivalrous warrior.



HAIYAN

A guest of the Kakesu-gumi.
Wields a staff.



THE PRESIDENT

President of Hii-Mysa, an international corporation that develops, manufactures and sells pharmaceuticals.



KURAHIKO SHINDO

Leader of the Soten-kai, under the wing of the Kansai Jihishin-kai. Real name, Torahiko Kudo.

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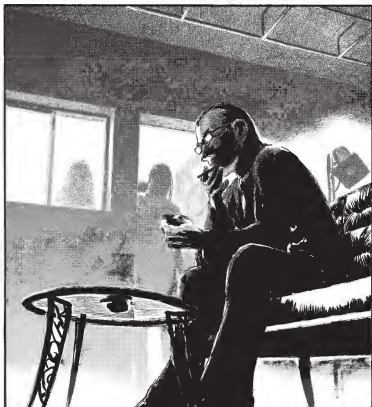
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...HERE
I AM.



...WEL-
COME
BACK.







AZUMA-
SAN.

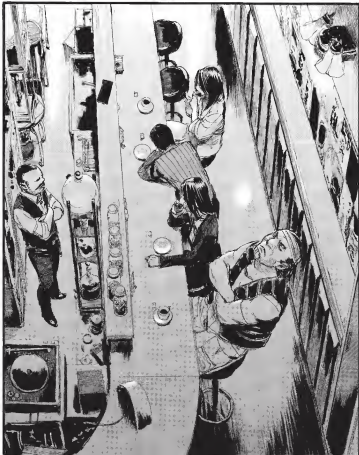


NOBODY
THAT WE'RE
AFFILIATED
WITH...

CAN HANDLE
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

I'M
AFRAID...
THAT WE
WON'T
BE ABLE
TO SLIP
INTO THE
SOTEN-
KAI'S
POSITION
ON THIS.







THERE'S
NO PAIN
FROM THE
SHOCK
ANYMORE.



NO
MATTER
HOW
FAST
YOU
KICK
...



OUCH
...



IF ONLY SHE
DIDN'T HAVE
THOSE...

...WERE
OUTFITTED
WITH GADGETS
THAT DELIVERED
300+ VOLTS OF
A FEW-DOZEN
MICROAMP
CHARGE.

THE TOES
AND HEEL OF
THAT ASIAN
WOMAN'S
SHOES LAST
NIGHT...

Can't
break
the heat
from my
fist-making
days.

HE MEANS
IT WOULD BE
VERY HARD TO
WIN WHEN SHE'S
ALREADY THE
SUPERIOR FIGHTER.
AND WE CAN'T
RELY ON PHYSICAL
STAMINA TO
CARRY US TO
VICTORY.

ER, I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT...

You
never
cross
your
arms
yet.

IF
ONLY
SHE
DIDN'T
HAVE
THOSE,
YOU
WOULD
HAVE
WON?



SHI-
NOBU.



...
PERHAPS
NOT
...



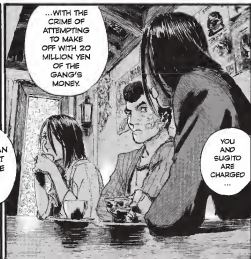
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU'RE
EVER GOING
TO FIGHT
HER AGAIN,
RIGHT?

WHO
CARES
IF IT'S
HARD
P



...ARE
ENOUGH
TO WRITE
THAT OFF.

AZUMA-SAN
SAYS THAT
THESE FIVE
DAYS OF
WORK...



...WITH THE
CRIME OF
ATTEMPTING
TO MAKE
OFF WITH 20
MILLION YEN
OF THE
GANG'S
MONEY.

YOU
AND
SUGITO
ARE
CHARGED
...



WELL,
THANKS.



WITH THAT
IN MIND,
WE HAVE A
REQUEST...
AN OFFER.

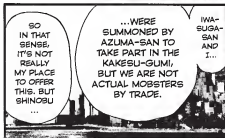
SO.

Fuu-dee-
Dee-
Doo!



DO YOU
FEEL LIKE
BECOMING
A MEMBER
OF THE
KAKESU-
GUMI?

SHI-
NOBU.



SO
IN THAT
SENSE,
IT'S NOT
REALLY
MY PLACE
TO OFFER
THIS. BUT
SHINOBU
...

...WERE
SUMMONED BY
AZUMA-SAN TO
TAKE PART IN THE
KAKESU-GUMI,
BUT WE ARE NOT
ACTUAL MOBSTERS
BY TRADE.

IWA-
SUGA-
SAN AND
I...



MEANING
...

...AS OF
TODAY,
YOU ARE
A FREE
WOMAN.



I HAVE
A FEELING
THAT YOU'RE
SUITED FOR
THIS LINE OF
WORK...

YOU HAD
A GUN
POINTED
AT YOUR
FACE, AND
YOU NEVER
FLINCHED.

YOU NEVER
WAILED OR
COMPLAINED
ABOUT THE
DANGER
YOU WERE
PLACED
IN.



LIKE
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SEDUCE
OR ME OR
SOME-
THING.

BUT
SORRY.



FEELS
NICE.



MY LATE
AUNT ONCE
TOLD ME,
"THERE'S
NOTHING
SADDER THAN
SHARING
SAKAZUKI
WITH A WEAK
BUNCH OF
YAKUZA."

BUT WE
HAVEN'T
EVEN
STARTED
OUR
RELATION-
SHIP!!

WAIT...
NO MORE
HONEY-
MOON
P!

RO-SAN,
TODAY IS
THE END
OF OUR
LITTLE
HONEY-
MOON.

THEY
SAID IT'S THE
SOTEN-KAI'S
TERRITORY.
DO YOU HAVE
MEMORY LOSS
OR SOME-
THING?

YOUR
HOMETOWN
WAS A NICE
PLACE. LOTS OF
GREEN
THERE...

I
COULD
BE A
FISHER...

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
SLOW LIFE
IN THE
COUNTRY
P!

...

BUT...
YOU DON'T
EVER GET
HOMESICK
OR ANY-
THING?

THAT WAS
PREDICATED
ON THE 20
MILLION YEN
YOU MADE
OFF WITH.

DON'T
BE
STUPID.

IT'S BEEN A
DECADE SINCE
I LEFT THE
ISLAND.
I HAVE NO
FAMILY...

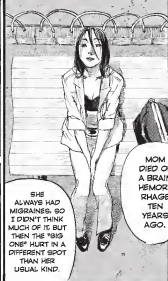
I
TOLD
YOU.

I
DON'T
...



BUT IT TAKES
TWO HOURS
BY HELICOPTER
TO GET TO A
HOSPITAL ON
THE MAINLAND.
HA HA HA...

AP-
ARENTLY IF
SHE'D BEEN
TREATED
QUICKER,
THEY COULD
HAVE SAVED
HER.



MOM
DIED OF A BRAIN
HEMOR-
RHAGE
TEN
YEARS
AGO.

SHE
ALWAYS HAD
MIGRAINES, SO
I DIDN'T THINK
MUCH OF IT, BUT
THEN THE "BIG
ONE" HURT IN A
DIFFERENT SPOT
THAN HER
USUAL KIND.

THEN
MY UNCLE WAS
BASICALLY LIKE,
"BE MY MISTRESS
AND I'LL GIVE
YOU FOOD AND A
HOME" ... WHICH
I WOULD HAVE
BEEN FINE WITH,
HONESTLY.

BUT THERE
REALLY WAS
NOTHING ON
THAT ISLAND
BUT THE
SMELL OF
FISH.

BUT AT
THE TIME,
I WAS JUST
SICK OF THE
FISHY STINK
THAT HUNG
OVER THAT
ENTIRE
ISLAND.

I RAN
OUT AND
CLAIMED
THAT STAYING
THERE WOULD
RUIN ME...
HEY, I WAS A
TEENAGER.



WHO
KNOWS WHAT
THE HELL THEY
WERE KILLING
EACH OTHER
OVER.

THEN
YOU HAVE
YAKUZA FROM
EAST AND
WEST, AND
ASSASSINS
LIKE OUT OF
A COMIC
BOOK.



...IS
PROSTITUTES.

...AND
ITS MOST
PRECIOUS
RESOURCE...

THE
MAIN
EXPORT
OF THE
ISLAND



THE
THING IS...
THE ISLAND
DIDN'T USED
TO BE THAT
WAY...

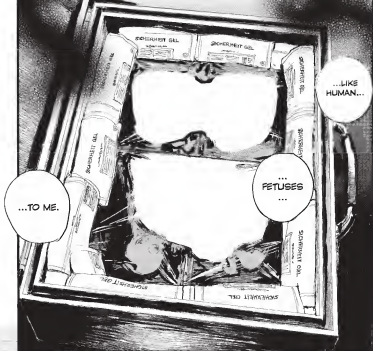




ABOUT THE
CONTENTS
OF THE CABL.
I MEAN...
YOU SAW
THEM DIDN'T
YOUR?



...I
HADN'T
EVER SEEN
ONE IN
PERSON...
BUT IT
LOOKED...





HELP



I WANT ...

...TO
UMMA-
STAN
EVEWY-
FING
YOU FINK,
AVUMA-
FAN.



PLEASE
GIVE
ME A
REWARD
!



IF THE
THREE
THINGS
I SAY
NOW...

...ARE
ALL
CORRECT
...

AND SO...
UM...



LET'S
HEAR
THEM.



YOU MAY
NOT HAVE
THOUGHT
...

...THAT
THE FIVE OF
US WOULD
ACTUALLY
SUCCEED IN
BRINGING
BACK THE
CASES...



O-
OKAY
!

FIRST
THING.



ARE YOU
HOPING
FOR
SOME-
THING IN
PARTI-
CULAR?

PLEASE
RUB MY
HEAD!!



NUMBER
TWO...



...BUT YOU
DID HAVE
AN IDEA
OF WHAT
WAS INSIDE
ALREADY.



YOUR
PLAN...

...WAS DESIGNED
TO REVEAL THE NATURE
OF THE DEALS OF ISHI-
KUNAGIJIMA THAT WERE
MAKING THE SOTEN-KAI
SO MUCH MONEY, SO
WE COULD TAKE
THEIR SHARE...



...IT WAS
FOR A
DIFFERENT
PURPOSE.

BUT IN
REALITY...

...ACCORD-
ING TO
WHAT YOU
TOLD US.



THIRD...
AND
LASTLY...







MY PLACE
IS WHAT
YOU THINK
OF AS THE
"STRAIGHT
LIFE"? HOW
NARROW
IS YOUR
WORLDVIEW
?

LISTEN,
I'VE BEEN
THROUGH
HELL AND
BACK
THE LAST
WEEK.

CAN I
FINISH
THIS
BOTTLE
?

THE
STRAIGHT
LIFE IS
BEST, I'VE
LEARNED.

...IS THIS
HOW YOU
NORMALLY
ASK FOR
JOBS,
DEARIE?

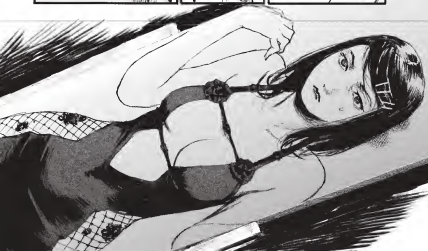
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
JUST AN OLD
VETERAN
QUEEN WITH
THE MOTTO,
"LIVE ALONE,
DIE ALONE."
WHAT GOT
INTO YOU?

NO
SHIT
?!

She's
running
an
errand
now.

I JUST GOT
A DIFFERENT
GIRL HERE
WORKING
OUT OF THE
PLACE, ONLY
FIVE DAYS
AGO.

WELL, I'M
SORRY, BUT
WE DON'T
HAVE ANY
OPENINGS
NOW.





I'M
OPENING
UP, SO
STOP
YELLING
FROM
UPSTAIRS!

ON ONE
OF THE
DRESSERS
OR
ANOTHER
!

DO
YOU HAVE
ANY BAR-
RETSES
?



THEY'RE MY
OLD ONES!
DON'T LIKE
'EM, GET
YOUR
OWN!

ALL
THESE
DRESSES
UP HERE
ARE
REALLY
SLUTTY!



AS IF
SHE'S HAD
ANY NEW
CLIENTS IN
A DECADE...



SHE SAID
"ONE OF THE"
DRESSERS.
SO THERE
MUST BE ONE
IN THE OTHER
ROOM.

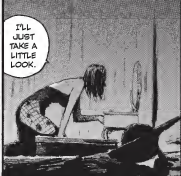
GOD,
LOOK AT
ALL THESE
GRANDMA-
BANDS. I'D
BE BETTER
OFF WITH
HAIRPINS.

I DON'T
SEE ANY!
GUESS
I'LL HAVE
TO USE
A HAIR-
BAND...



OH, IT
MUST BE
FROM THAT
NEW GIRL
LIVING
HERE...

A
TRAVEL
BAG...







WELCOME
BACK...
HOW WAS
HEP?

I
HOME
...



WE'RE LIKE
AN "ODD
COUPLE,"
THAT'S
WHAT YOU'D
CALL US.

ODD
CUPPLE
...



...BUT
HE CAN'T
STAND
ANYMORE.
WAS AFRAID
OF HIS
DISABILITY
PAYMENTS
SHRINKING.

WE'RE NOT
UNDER ANY
OBLIGATION
TO BRING HIM
FOOD OR
ANYTHING
...



I'M
SORRY,
DEAR.
HE SAYS
"HELLO"
WITH
DIRTY
JOKES.

HE
WAS
FINE...
WHAT IT
MEAN,
"BITE MY
FAT
ROLL"
?



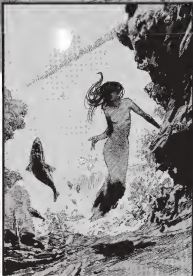
THIS IS
NAMI-CHAN,
THE NEW GIRL I
TOLD YOU ABOUT.
SHE
WAS JUST
VISITING
FUJII-SAN.

AHA!
THERE
YOU
ARE.

THAT'S
SHINOBU.
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
MIND YOUR
MANNERS
AROUND
HER.



HELLO...
SHINOBU.

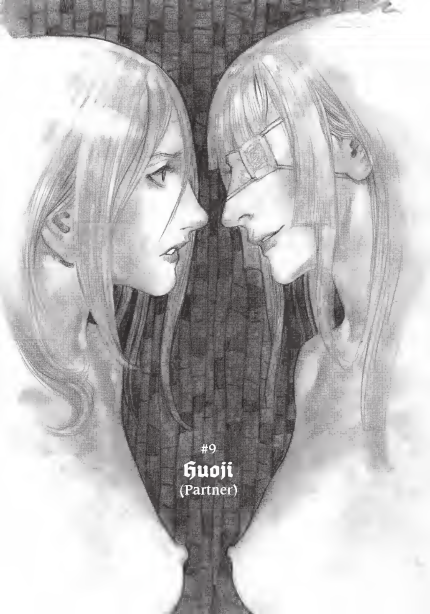






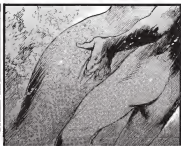
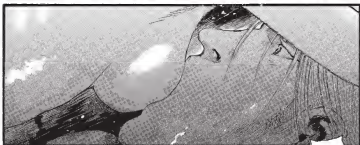
LET'S
BECOME
LIKE BUBBLES
IN THE SEA,
ALL THE WAY
UNTIL THE
DAWN.

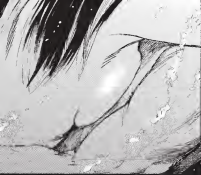
COME.



#9

Guoji
(Partner)





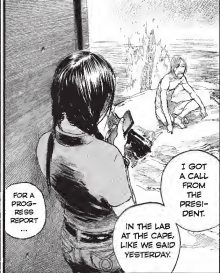




YOUR PHONE WAS OUTSIDE THE ROOM.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO RING MY CELL BEFORE GOING INSIDE?

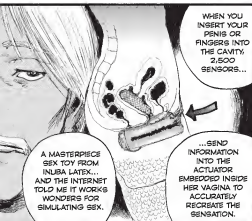
...OH.



FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ...

I GOT A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT.

IN THE LAB AT THE CAPE, LIKE WE SAID YESTERDAY.



WHEN YOU INSERT YOUR PENIS OR FINGERS INTO THE CAVITY, 2,500 SENSORS...

A MASTERPIECE SEX TOY FROM INUBA LATEX... AND THE INTERNET TOLD ME IT WORKS WONDERS FOR SIMULATING SEX.

...SEND INFORMATION INTO THE ACTUATOR EMBEDDED INSIDE HER VAGINA TO ACCURATELY RECREATE THE SENSATION.



DOES IT FEEL GOOD ...

...STICKING IT INTO A FAKE HOLE?



...BUT I HATE ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR PORNOGRAPHY.

I LOVE JAPAN ...

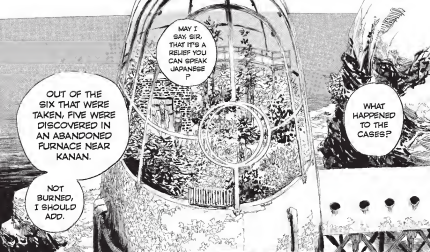


MAKES ME GLAD TO BE ALIVE.

SO YOU'D
PREFER
IF SHE WAS
JUST A SAD,
LEGLESS
SACK OF
FLESH BACK
IN CHINA?



SHE
CERTAINLY
LOOKS
HAPPIER
NOW THAN
WHEN SHE
ORIGINALLY
REMEMBERED
YOUR FACE.



OUT OF THE SIX THAT WERE TAKEN, FIVE WERE DISCOVERED IN AN ABANDONED FURNACE NEAR KANAN.

NOT BURNED, I SHOULD ADD.

MAY I SAY, SIR, THAT IT'S A RELIEF YOU CAN SPEAK JAPANESE P

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CASES?

SHOULDN'T YOUR PEOPLE HAVE DETERMINED THEIR ALLEGIANCE ALREADY?

KEINE AHNUNG.
(NO CLUE)

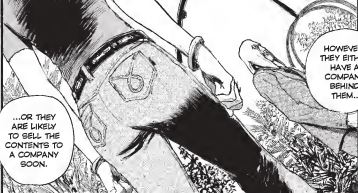
WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY WERE?

IT WAS THE ASIANS WHO TOOK THE CASES.

...BUT THAT OF A RIVAL TO THE SOTEN-KAI INSTEAD.

THEREFORE I SUSPECT THAT IT WAS NOT THE WORK OF A COMPANY RIVAL...

THE INVADERS ON THAT NIGHT WERE A WHITE WOMAN... AND FOUR ASIANS BELIEVED TO BE IN A SEPARATE GROUP.



...OR THEY
ARE LIKELY
TO SELL THE
CONTENTS TO
A COMPANY
SOON.

HOWEVER,
THEY EITHER
HAVE A
COMPANY
BEHIND
THEM...



AFTER ALL,
IN THEIR
CURRENT
STATE...

...THEY'RE
NOTHING
BUT DEAD
FETUSES.

OF COURSE...
THERE'S NOT
MUCH THEY CAN
DO BY SELLING
IT RIGHT OFF.



I DO
...

THERE'S
SOME-
ONE I
NEED...



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
SUSPICIONS
?



WE CAN
EXPAND
OUR SEARCH
TO OTHER
PREFECTURES
TOMORROW,
MR. PRESI-
DENT.



...TO SIT
DOWN
AND
HAVE A
GOOD
CHAT
WITH.





pinch
pinch



I'D
LOVE
IT!
♥

MAYBE I
SHOULD START
VISITING THIS
PLACE MORE
OFTEN NOW!
HA HA HA
HA HA!



SINCE
YESTER-
DAY!
♥

SO
YOU'RE
WORK-
ING
HERE
NOW!



KANO-
SAN!
♥

SHI-
NOBU-
CHAN
?!



OH?
OH?!

YOU SHOULD
SEE OUR
OTHER
NEW GIRL,
KANO-
SAN.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO THIS
PLACE?!
I LEAVE FOR
JUST A BIT,
AND IT'S
BLOSSOMED
UNDER MY
NOSE!

NAMI-CHAN,
THIS IS
HYAKKEI KANO-SAN,
THE DOLL-
SCULPTOR WHO
COORDINATED
THE INTERIOR.



I
FROM
BELA-
RUS.

YOU'RE SO
BEAUTIFUL.
WHERE ARE
YOU FROM,
NAMI-CHAN
?!



I AM
NAMI.
NICE
MEET
YOU.



WHAT'S
THE
EYEPATCH
FOR?
FASHION
P?



DO YOU
AGREE THAT
KAND-SAN
MIGHT BE
BETTER OFF
DEAD?

WHAT
DID HE
SAY?

HE ASKED
HER COLOR
OF UNDER-
WEAR.



Какое на тебе
сегодня белье?

...цвет беж.



AND THE
GLOVE.

COULD
YOU TAKE
IT OFF
FOR ME
REAL
QUICK?



КОММЕНТАРИЙ
KAND-SAN

OH! I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
MAMA'S
TASTE IN
ACCESSO-
RIES.

HO HO
HO...

ER... CON...
CON-JUNG-
TIV--TIS.



I ONLY SAW
FROM A DISTANCE
THROUGH THE
NIGHT-VISION
BINOCULARS, BUT
I REMEMBER...

...A
PROSTHETIC
RIGHT
HAND...

...AND
A LEFT
EYE LIKE
THIS...



I WANT TO
USE HER
AS A MODEL
FOR A DOLL.

I WANT
TO SEE,
TOO...

But not
the doll.

UGH.

HA HA...
SOMETIME
BEFORE
WE DIE.

OH, I'M
JEALOUS
DEARIE. DO
ONE OF ME
TOO, WILL
YOU?

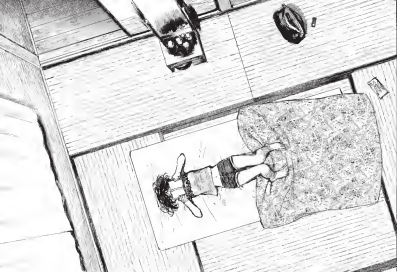


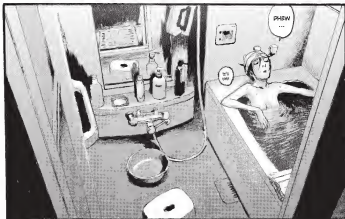
OH,
FAN-
TASTIC
!

BUT
SO
PAIN-
FUL!

THAT JUST
MAKES IT
BETTER!!











A PLACE
CALLED
ISHIKU-
NAGIUMA.



ISHI...
KUNAI...

AND
THEN IT'S
AN ISLAND
WAY OFF THE
COAST OF
THERE.

DO
YOU KNOW
WHERE...
SHIMANE
PREFECTURE
IS? ANYWAY,
IT'S FAR TO
THE WEST.



ANYWAY,
THAT'S ALL
I WANTED
TO SAY.
GOOD
NIGHT.

GOOD
NIGHT...
THANK
YOU.



EVEN
JAPANESE
PEOPLE CAN'T
KEEP THE NAME
STRAIGHT UNTIL
THEY'VE HEARD
IT A FEW TIMES.

NO, IT'S
I-SH-KU-NA...
OH, FORGET IT,
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
REMEMBER!



DAMN...
DIDN'T
SHAKE
HER AT
ALL
...





THIS IS
PRESENT
FROM
ME, SHI-
NOBU...



YES!
I THINK
THEY
WORK BY
TOMOR-
ROW.

I HOPE
THEY
WORK.



HA HA...
COOL...

I
USED
EYE-
DROPS.



WOW,
THAT'S
GREAT I
ALMOST
FEEL--

OH!
OH MY
GOOD-
NESS,
THANK
YOU!

I
FOUND
THIS...
IN
JAPAN.

NOT
FROM...
HOME-
TOWN.



IS THIS
...?









SHINOBU...



SHINOBU.

LET'S
PUT IT
UP...



HAIR.



LET'S
DO
THAT...

IT MAKE
YOU LOOK
NICER...

YES?



SO I
CAN SEE
YOUR
FACE
...

LET'S
PUT...
YOUR
HAIR
UP.

YOUR
FACE HAS...
VERY NICE
CONTOUR...



THE
SAME
WAY YOU
LOOK SO
PRETTY
THAT
NIGHT.



I
CAN
TELL BY
HOW
SHE
HOLDS
ME



THAT
IS
NOT...

A
HUMAN
HAND.



UM, WHEN
YOU SAY...

NAME...



IN
FACT.

I
THINK YOU
HAVE THE
WRONG
PERSON.

... "THAT
NIGHT,"
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
REFERRING
TO...



... THAT
YOU CAN
TIE ME TO
HER...

JUST
BECAUSE
I'M FROM
ISHIKUN-
AGIJIMA
DOESN'T
MEAN...



HOW
YOU KNOW
"THAT NIGHT"
HAPPEN ON
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA?



NO,
NO,
NO!
WAIT,
WAIT,
WAIT.

THIS
IS A
BLUFF...
SHE'S
TRYING
TO TEST
ME!

THE DISTANCE,
THE DARKNESS,
THE MASQUERADE
COSTUME...

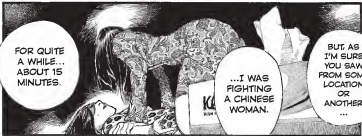
SHE
MIGHT
SUSPECT
I LOOK
SIMILAR.
BUT SHE
CAN'T
IDENTIFY
ME FOR CERTAIN!



THANKS
TO THE
CIRCLING
HELICOPTER,
I DIDN'T
HEAR YOUR
VOICE.

I
DIDN'T
GET A
GOOD
LOOK AT
YOUR
FACE AT
ALL.

HAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



FOR QUITE
A WHILE...
ABOUT 15
MINUTES.

...I WAS
FIGHTING
A CHINESE
WOMAN.

BUT, AS
I'M SURE
YOU SAW
FROM SOME
LOCATION
OR
ANOTHER
...



HER
THICK-
NESS.

HER
HEIGHT
...

HER
BREASTS,
HER
BUTT.



AFTER
THAT LONG,
MY EYES
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
PICK UP THE
DETAILS.



I WAS
ABLE TO
MEASURE
YOUR
HEIGHT AND
FIGURE BY
TRANSITIVE
PROPERTY...

AND
AFTER
THAT
...

...SHE DREW
YOUR BLOOD.
DIDN'T SHE?
WITH HER BODY
PRESSED TO
YOURS...



...THE FASHIONS OF THIS BUSINESS WERE PERFECT FOR ME TO CROSS-CHECK AGAINST MY MEMORY OF THAT NIGHT.

FORTU-
NATELY
FOR
ME...

SO WHAT I
REMEMBERED
WAS NOT
YOUR FACE,
BUT YOUR
BODY.



YOU
DO SPEAK
PERFECT
JAPANESE
AFTER ALL.



...I'LL BE
DAMNED.



SO I WILL
SUBJUGATE
YOU NOW.

I NEED
OTHERS
WHO WILL
HELP ME.



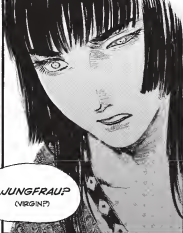
WELL...
NO...

SO
WHAT'S
UP WITH
YOU?

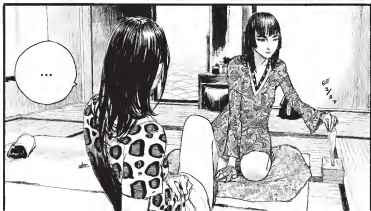
YOU A
DYKE OR
SOME-
THING
?







...JUNGFRAU?
(VIRGIN?)





...WHEN WAS
THE LAST
TIME YOU
RETURNED
TO THE
ISLAND?



BEFORE
THE
NIGHT
IN
QUES-
TION...

BEFORE
THAT...



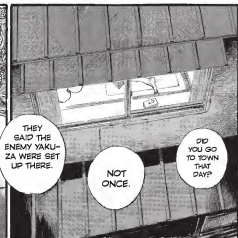
IT WAS TEN
YEARS SINCE
I LEFT THE
ISLAND AT
AGE 12.

ER...
WELL...

IN THE
SENSE OF
"RETURNING,"
THAT WAS THE
FIRST TIME.



AH...



THEY
SAID THE
ENEMY YAKU-
ZA WERE SET
UP THERE.

NOT
ONCE.

DID
YOU GO
TO TOWN
THAT
DAY?



GO WITH ME TO
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA
AGAIN.

ALL
RIGHT,
SHINOBU.

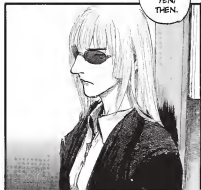
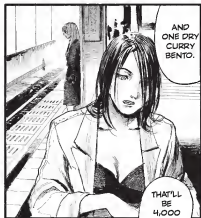
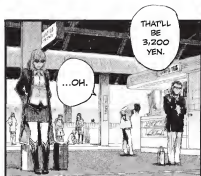


I THINK
YOU'LL
FIND IT
FASCI-
NATING.

YOU
OUGHT TO
KNOW THE
CURRENT
STATE OF
THE ISLAND
ON WHICH
YOU WERE
BORN.

#10 - **Flüchtling** (Fugitive)



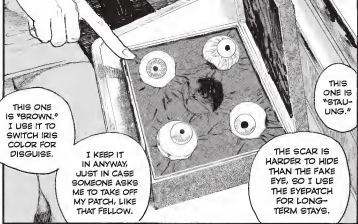




SEISHUN 18 TICKETS FROM TOKYO TO SAKAI (TOTTORI)

5,750 YEN EACH - 19 HOURS BY TRAIN





THIS ONE IS "BROWN." I USE IT TO SWITCH IRIS COLOR FOR DISGUISE.

I KEEP IT IN ANYWAY, JUST IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS ME TO TAKE OFF MY PATCH, LIKE THAT FELLOW.

THIS ONE IS "STAU-UNG."

THE SCAR IS HARDER TO HIDE THAN THE FAKE EYE, SO I USE THE EYEPATCH FOR LONG-TERM STAYS.





FOR THAT
MATTER,
WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING ON
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA?

ALL
THAT STUFF
YOU DID ON
THE ISLAND...
WHAT WAS
IT FOR?



...ABOUT THE
PEOPLE THE
SOTEN-KAI
WERE
DEALING
WITH?

HOW
MUCH
DO YOU
KNOW
...



JUST...
THAT THEY
WERE FROM
A COMPANY
...

HUH
?



BEFORE I
EXPLAIN
THAT...





WHAT KIND OF
COMPANY DO
YOU SUPPOSE
BUYS SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT FROM
YAKUZAP?



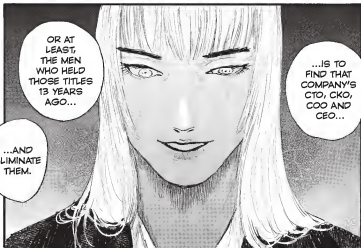
...YEAH.



YOU STOLE
THEIR CASES...
DID YOU LOOK
INSIDE?



MY
PURPOSE
HERE...



OR AT
LEAST,
THE MEN
WHO HELD
THOSE TITLES
13 YEARS
AGO...

...AND
ELIMINATE
THEM.

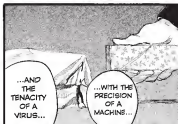
...IS TO
FIND THAT
COMPANY'S
CTO, CKO,
COO AND
CEO...



KILLING THE
LOW-LEVEL FISH
WILL ONLY GET
THEM ON EDGE
AND ALLOW THE
BIG ONES TO
SWIM AWAY.

...MY
ACTIONS ON
ISHIKUNAGE-
JIMA WERE
ILL-CON-
CEIVED.

I WAS
OVERTAKEN
BY A RAGE,
AND CAUSED
UNNECESSARY
VIOLENCE...



...AND
THE
TENACITY
OF A
VIRUS...

...WITH THE
PRECISION
OF A
MACHINE...



I
MUST
BE
CALM
...

...FILL WHAT
I LACK WITH
THE HELP OF
OTHERS...



I WAS
HOPING THAT
SOMEONE
AMONG YOU
WOULD
BECOME
MY LIMBS
AND ASSIST
MY CAUSE...
JUST ONE
OF YOU.

WHEN I
SAVED YOU
AND YOUR
FRIENDS
THAT
NIGHT...

...IT WAS
FOR THAT
REASON.

Ugh...

IF I HAD
THE WRIST
TURNED THE
OTHER WAY,
I COULDN'T
CLOSE MY
HAND.

I'VE
FIXED IT
NOW...

...BUT AFTER
THE BATTLE ON
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA,
MY PROSTHETIC
WAS ACTING UP.

I WAS
WORKING
AT MAMA'S
PLACE
TO EARN
THE REPAIR
COSTS.

THE
PROSTHETIC
WAS CREATED
IN GERMANY,
BUT THE PALM
HINGES WERE
MANUFACTURED AT
A LOCAL
FACTORY IN
FUKAGAWA.

BUT
THE
FIRST
NIGHT
MAMA
SAZAE
SAID...

... SHE'D
HIRED
YOU JUST
FIVE DAYS
EARLIER...

...
HUH
?!
?

MEANING
YOU
ONLY CAME
TO TOKYO
AFTER YOUR
PROSTHETIC
WENT
HAYWIRE
?



I ONLY
STARTED
HALF A DAY
BEFORE YOU,
SHINOBU.

I ASKED
HER TO TELL
ANYONE WHO
ASKED THAT
I'D BEEN
AROUND FOR
FIVE DAYS.

OH,
THAT!
THAT'S
A LIE.



What is
this?!

It's a
"maru".

Schoon!!

SHOULD I
REALLY BE
TAGGING
ALONG
WITH HER?



I
SWEAR
...

I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT'S
TRUE AND
WHAT'S
BULLSHIT.



IF I
HADN'T
LET HER
TAKE THE
INITIATIVE
LIKE THAT...

WELL,
FUCK...



...NAM!







SHINOBU.

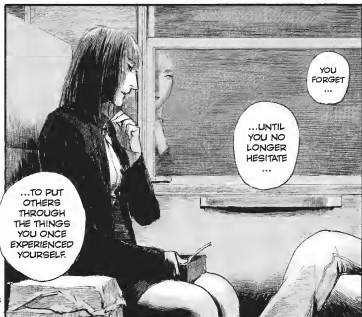
ACCLIMATION
IS A SCARY
THING.



...
EVERYTHING
BUT YOUR
HATRED
AND YOUR
GOAL...

...THE
MORE YOU
FORGET...

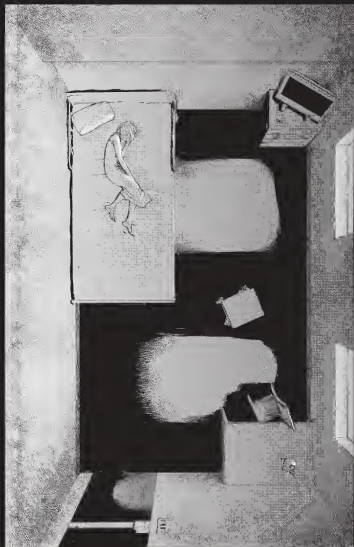
THE MORE
YOU LIVE
THIS KIND
OF LIFE...



...TO PUT
OTHERS
THROUGH
THE THINGS
YOU ONCE
EXPERIENCED
YOURSELF.

...UNTIL
YOU NO
LONGER
HESITATE
...

YOU
FORGET
...





GREAT
SO WE'RE
GOING TO
TAKE ON
ANOTHER
TOWN LIKE
THIS?

PAIN
IN THE
ASS
...

THERE'S A
FARMING VILLAGE
THERE WHERE THE
CROP WATER HAS
A COMBINATION
OF RARE EARTH
TRACES SIMILAR
TO THIS TOWN'S.

NO...
IT'S JUST FOR
A SCOUTING
EXPEDITION.

HUH?
WE HAVE
A BRANCH
IN CHINA?

...INAP?



HOW BIG
OF A PIECE
CAN YOU
HANDLE?



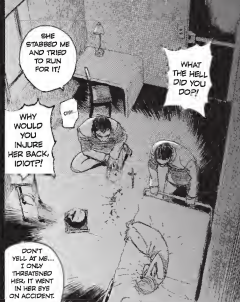




WURCK...
T.T.D

WHAT'S
THE HARM,
ANYWAY
P

THIS IS
A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY
TO TEACH
HER *EXACTLY*
WHERE SHE
STANDS
HERE...



SHE
STABBED ME
AND TRIED
TO RUN
FOR IT!

WHAT
THE HELL
DID YOU
DO?!

WHY
WOULD
YOU
INJURE
HER BACK,
IDIOT?!

DON'T
YELL AT ME...
I ONLY
THREATENED
HER, IT WENT
IN HER EYE
ON ACCIDENT.



IF *ALL*
OF YOU
STAY
QUIET
...

...WE CAN
SAVE THE
LIVES OF
THOU-
SANDS.



IF
YOU
...



GOT
THAT
...P



...WE
ARE
UNDER-
TAKING
HERE

THAT'S
THE KIND OF
RESEARCH
...



NOW I
DON'T
NEED TO
WAIT FOR
YOU TO
GET WET...



BUT AT
LEAST, THE
★ INCREDIBLY
★ UNHYGIENIC
★ PRACTICE OF
★ SMEARING
★ FROSTING IN MY
★ SNATCH, ONLY
★ HAPPENED THE
★ VERY FIRST TIME.

FROM
THAT DAY
ONWARD,
MY DAILY
CYCLE OF
FOOD, SLEEP,
AND TESTS IN
THE FACILITY
EXPANDED
TO INCLUDE
★ GANG RAPE ★



THE
FACILITY
WAS
OFFICIALLY
KNOWN AS
THE "HILL-
MYNA INC.
KIEBITZEN-
BERG
FACTORY."

IT WAS
THE THIRD
PLANT OF
GERMANY'S
LARGEST
PHARMA-
CEUTICAL
COMPANY,
BUILT IN
KIEBITZENBERG
IN 1995.

EVEN NOW, I
RECALL BEING
ASKED TO
PROVIDE LOCAL
DIRECTIONS TO
THE COMPANY'S
VICE PRESIDENT
WHEN HE CAME
TO INSPECT
THE REGION.
THEN, IN 1999...



...THE
FACTORY
EXPLODED.



...WERE
TAKEN INTO
CUSTODY
UNDER THE
GUISE OF
"DECONTAMI-
NATION."

ALL
800
OR SO
RESIDENTS
OF
KREITZEN-
BERG
AT THE
TIME...



SLOWLY, AGAINST
MY WILL, I FELT
MY STANDING
DESCEND FROM
"QUARANTINED"
TO "GUINEA PIG."

...BUT OVER
TIME THEY
GREW MORE
FORCEFUL.

THE
HILL-MYNA
EMPLOYEES
WERE GENTLE-
MANLY AT
FIRST...





...DOES
NOT
MATTER.

WHOSE
CHILD
IT IS...



MR. SUCHIP
MR. WILKE?
MR. ROSCU-
STER?



WHOSE
DO YOU
SUP-
POSE
IT IS?



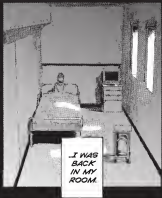
WHAT IS
TODAY'S
TEST
FOR?

WE'RE
COLLECT-
ING A BIT
OF SPINAL
FLUID.

IT'LL
BE DONE
IN TWENTY
MINUTES...
BREATHE
IN.



MY
STOMACH
WAS FLAT.



I WAS
BACK
IN MY
ROOM.



WHEN I
AWOKE
FROM
BEING
UNDER



IT WAS
MUCH, MUCH
LATER THAT
I LEARNED
THAT
THEY HAD
RAPED ME
FOR WORK,
TO GAIN THE
FETUS OF A
KIEBITZEN-
BERG
RESIDENT.

AT FIRST,
I THOUGHT
THEY HAD
ABORTED
THE BABY,
TO HIDE THE
EVIDENCE
OF THEIR
RAPE.

BUT
OVER TIME,
I REALIZED
THAT IT
MADE NO
SENSE THAT
THEY WOULD
WAIT NINE
MONTHS
TO COVER
IT UP.



...THEY
RESUMED
THEIR
PRACTICE
OF
RAPING
ME.



ABOUT
TWO
MONTHS
AFTER
THE
OPERATION...



GET UP!
TIME FOR
YOUR PRE-
SURGERY
TEST.

ANOTHER
NINE
MONTHS
LATER

...THEY
DIDN'T
EVEN
BOOTHER
TO HIDE
IT.



YOU'RE
GOING
TO REPEAT
THIS UNTIL
I GET FULLY
PREGNANT
...

...THEN
TAKE IT
FROM ME
AGAIN,
AREN'T
YOU?



WE HAVE
A NEW
FACILITY
AT OUR
KAUFLINGEN
LAB.

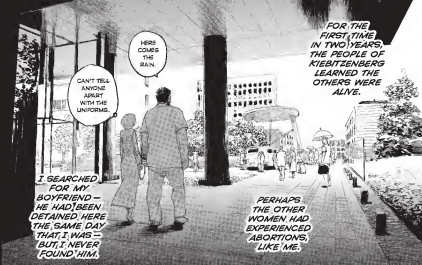
WE'RE
MOVING
HALF OF
YOU TODAY.
THE TESTS
WILL HAPPEN
THERE.



WHERE
AM I
GOING
?



I WISH
YOU'D LET
ME SEE IT
BEFORE
YOU DO,
THOUGH.



CAN'T TELL
ANYONE
APART
WITH THE
UNIFORMS.

HERE
COMES
THE
RAIN.

FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN TWO YEARS,
THE PEOPLE OF
KIEBITZENBERG
LEARNED THE
OTHERS WERE
ALIVE.

I SEARCHED
FOR MY
BOYFRIEND —
HE HAD BEEN
DETAINED HERE
THE SAME DAY
THAT I WAS —
BUT I NEVER
FOUND HIM.

PERHAPS
THE OTHER
WOMEN HAD
EXPERIENCED
ABORTIONS,
LIKE ME.



IT WAS
MY FIRST
VIEW OF
THE TOWN
IN TWO
YEARS.

I FELL
ASLEEP
TO THE
GENTLE
VIBRA-
TION OF
THE
CAR.

COVERED IN
PLANTS HERE
AND THERE...
LIKE IT'S BEEN
ABANDONED.





ONE
OF THEM
EXPLODED...
AND THREW
DEBRIS
THIS FAR.

BOTH OF
THEM... A
LANDSLIDE,
PERHAPS?



DEAD WITH
HIS PHONE
IN HAND...

MUST
HAVE
CARRIED
ME
OUT...

...
THEN DIED
JUST AS
HE CALLED
FOR HELP.



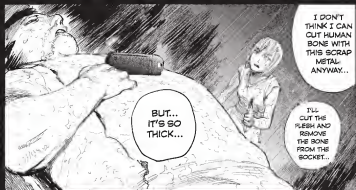
I
DON'T
KNOW

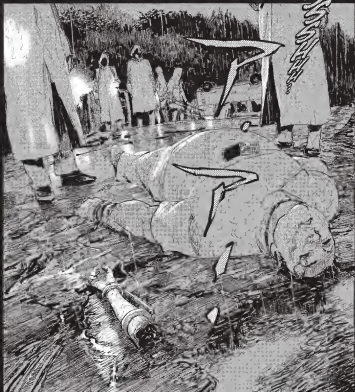
...
BUT I
HAVE
TO
HURRY.



IS
THERE
CELL
PHONE
SERVICE
OUT
HERE?

OR...
COULD
HE EVEN
DO THAT
MUCH?
P





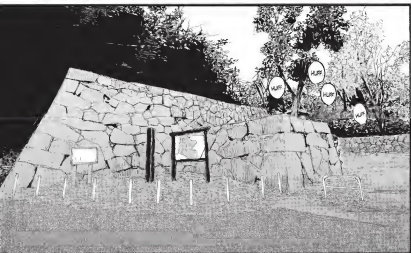
YONAGO STATION,
TOTTORI





#11 - **Kyoensha** (Banqueters)

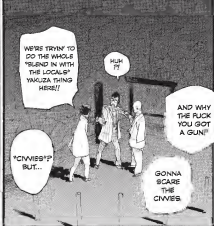
FIRST
TIME IN
MY LIFE
HOLDING
A PIECE...







THERE
ISN'T
EVEN
ANYONE
H—



WE'RE TRYIN'
DO THE WHOLE
"BLIND IN WITH
THE LOCALS"
YAKUZA THING
HERE!!

HUH?
!!

AND WHY
THE FUCK
YOU GOT
A GUN!!

"CIVVIES"?
BUT...

GONNA
SCARE
THE
CIVVIES



WE'RE
LOCALS,
FUCKFACE
!!

WHO
SAID YOU
COULD
DISS
YONAGO,
BITCH?!

URGH
...



YOU
GONNA
DIE.

YOUNG-
UN.















AH!

A
FITTING
IDEA
FROM
YOU.



WE MUST
SHOW PRIDE
IN OUR
PRESENCE
HERE IN
TOTTORI.

BUT LET
US COME
UP WITH A
SUGGEST-
ED PLAN
BEFORE
HE GIVES
ORDERS.



WE CAN
REPORT
...

LET'S
REPORT TO
AZUMA-SAN
AND SOLICIT
ORDERS.



YOU
KILL THIS
MANY
MEN...

«YOU'LL
NEVER GO
UP THE...»

YAKUZA...
LIKE DEAD
FROG.

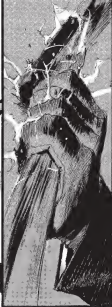
DEATH.

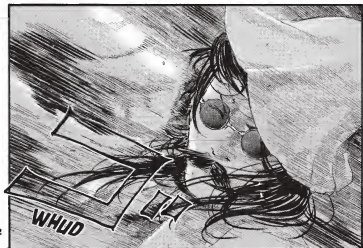
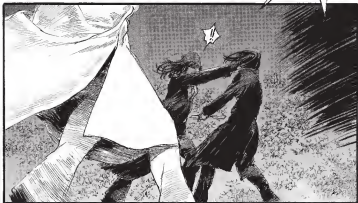




!!
WITH
HIS
BARE
HAND
PT















YOU
STILL GOT
PLANS
FOR ISHI-
KUNAGI-
JIMAP?

WE GOT OFF
AT YONAGO
FOR DINNER.
I DIDN'T
EXPECT TO
RUN INTO
YOU HERE!



I'LL
EXPLAIN
ABOUT
HER
LATER.

CAN YOU
TELL ME WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
HERE FIRST?



I WILL
TAKE A
30-MINUTE
WALK.

SHINOBU.



WHEN DID
YOU TURN
INTO A
WILD ANI-
MAL TAMER?

THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT TO
KNOW...



USE THE
TIME TO
TALK WITH
THEM.





WHAT ARE
YOU EVEN
DOING IN
YONAGO
P!

WHY
P! HUH
P!
HOW
P!

IT'S
SHINOBU...
YOU
REMEMBER
HER,
RIGHT?



...

THE
AUTHORITIES
WILL BE HERE
SOON.



JUST
MAKE IT
QUICK!



...MM.





IT
AUTO-
ADJUSTS.

AREN'T
THESE
LONG-
DIS-
TANCE
P



YOU'RE
SO NICE
TO THIS
BITCH

YOU
LIKE
HER
P

HERE.

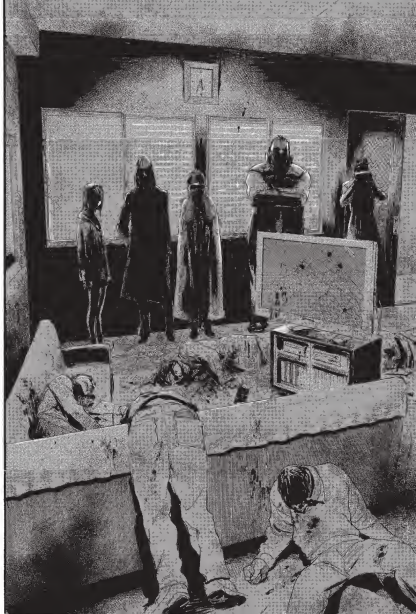


CLICK
* * *
CLICK



THEN
AGAIN,
YOU MIGHT
NOT NEED
TO SEE...

...TO
IDENTIFY
THE
SMELL...





AFTER
SPLITTING
OFF FROM YOU,
AZUMA-SAN HAD
US CONTINUE TO
INVESTIGATE THE
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA
INTERESTS.

THE
SHOKUHAKU-
KAI— A
QUATERNARY
WING OF THE
TAIHO-KAI.



...WE'VE
BEEN
ATTACKED
BY AN
UNKNOWN
GROUP.



AND
THERE'S
MORE...

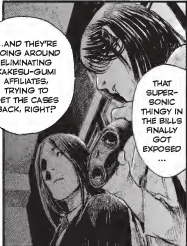
BUT
WHEN WE
ARRIVED
LAST
NIGHT
WE FOUND
THIS.

AS YOU SAW
EARLIER NEAR
THE SITE OF OLD
YONAGO CASTLE,
SINCE WE LEFT
THIS OFFICE...



WE
HAD A
DEAL IN
PLACE
TWO
DAYS
AGO.

WE
WANTED
TO BORROW
THE SHOKU-
HAKU-KAI'S
HAUNT FOR
OUR BASE
OF OPERA-
TIONS.



...AND THEY'RE
GOING AROUND
ELIMINATING
KAKESU-GUMI
AFFILIATES,
TRYING TO
GET THE CASES
BACK, RIGHT?

THAT
SUPER-
SONIC
THINGY IN
THE BILLS
FINALLY
GOT
EXPOSED
...



AN
UNKNOWN
GROUP?!

IT'S THE
SOTEN-
KAI!!

OH,
COME
ON, PAL,
ARE YOU
REALLY
THAT
DENSE?



THE SOTEN-
KAI ONLY
MARGHAL TEN
MEMBERS,
INCLUDING
THEIR LEADER
KURAHIKO
SHINDO.
IT'S A TINY
GROUP.



BUT SOME
ELEMENTS
ARE STILL
INEXPLICABLE.

THAT IS
LARGELY
CORRECT
I BELIEVE.



VERY
QUICK
ON THE
UPTAKE.



...THEY DON'T HAVE
THE MANPOWER TO
MASSACRE OTHER
GANGS, INCLUDING
STREET PATROL,
IN SUCH A SHORT
SPAN OF TIME.

UNLESS
EACH ONE
OF THEM
HAS A
MACHINE
GUN...



THE TAIHO-KAI
WILL NOT STAND BY
IDLY WHEN AN ENTIRE
GROUP IS WIPE OUT
WITHOUT WARNING.



THESE
PEOPLE WERE
UNDER THE
TAIHO-KAI'S
UMBRELLA,
EVEN AS
LOW-LEVEL
MEMBERS.

MAYBE
THEY
GOT HELP
FROM THE
PARENT
GROUP?
KANSAI
JIHSHIN-
KAI, RIGHT?

THAT'S
THE
NATURAL
ASSUMPTION...
BUT I DON'T
KNOW.



ONE,
TWO...
I ONLY
COUNT
SIX OF
THEM.

THE SHOKU-
HAKU-KAI HAVE
16 MEMBERS.
SIX ON THE
SECOND FLOOR,
FOUR ON
PATROL—
ALL DEAD.



...JUST TO
PROTECT THE
PRODUCT OF
ONE OF THEIR
FLOOR-LEVEL
TEAMS?

...BUT DO
YOU REALLY
THINK THEY'D
HELP START
AN ENTIRE
WAR...

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH MONEY THE
SOTEN-KAI WAS
PASSING UP THE
CHAIN TO THE
JIHISHIN-KAI...



THAT
ONLY
LEAVES
...



THEN
...

IF IT'S
NOT
YAKUZA
...





YOU'RE GONNA
MAKE MY EARS EX-
PLODE, LISTENING
FOR THAT WHILE
PEOPLE CHAT IN
THE SAME ROOM!



SORI WILL
ALERT US TO
THE APPROACH
OF ANY POLICE
VEHICLES.

SURE,
BUT...
NOW?

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
COPS?



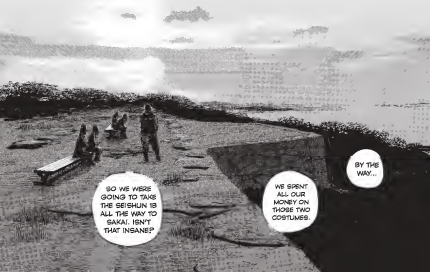
WELL,
THAT WRAPS
UP THE
EXPLANATION
OF WHY WE
ARE HERE,
SHINOBU.



I
MEAN,
I'LL DO
IT, BUT
...

AWW
!

WILL YOU
TELL US THE
STORY OF
HOW YOU
CAME TO BE
WITH THE
ONE-EYED
WOMAN
NOW?



SO WE WERE
GOING TO TAKE
THE SEISHUN IS
ALL THE WAY TO
SAKAI. ISN'T
THAT INSANE?

WE SPENT
ALL OUR
MONEY ON
THOSE TWO
COSTUMES.

BY THE
WAY...



ANY-
WAY!

...I'M SADLY
FORCED TO
ADMIT THAT
MY HOME OF
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA...

AFTER
DOING
SOME
RE-
SEARCH
...



TALK
ABOUT
SHITTY
QUALITY.

WHAT?
!!

BUT I HAD
THE HAT AND
MUSTACHE
AND EVERY-
THING!!

IT WAS
100%
FAKE
AT A
GLANCE.

...THAT
THOSE WERE
MEANT TO
BE *MALE*
COSTUMES.

WEREN'T
THEY JUST
PONCHOS
?



I
NEVER
REALIZED
...



...SHI-
NOBU.



...IS NOW AN
*ISLAND OF
PROSTITUTION.*

AND I CONSIDERED,
WITH THAT IN MIND,
HAVING TWO WOMEN
WANDER AROUND THE
ISLAND WOULD BE A
BIT UNNATURAL....



IF YOU'RE
SERIOUS
ABOUT THIS...
I HAVE
SOMETHING
YOU OUGHT
TO KNOW.

BUT
IT'S NOT
BAD.

I
HAVE MANY
THINGS I
COULD SAY
ABOUT THAT
TRAIN OF
LOGIC.

...THERE IS
ANOTHER WAY IN:
MAKING CONTACT
WITH A PIMP ON
THE MAINLAND
SO YOU CAN
GET IN AS A
PROSTITUTE...

ASIDE FROM
VISITING THE
PLEASURE
CENTER OF
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA AS A
CLIENT...



...IT'S THE
SOTEN-KAI
WHO COOR-
DINATE THE
PIMPS.

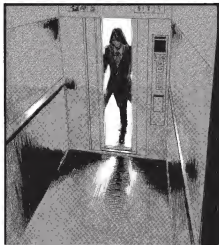
NATURALLY
...

#12

Qiao Zhuang

(Disguise)







WHAT'S WRONG?
ANOTHER
HEADACHE?

UNNINH.

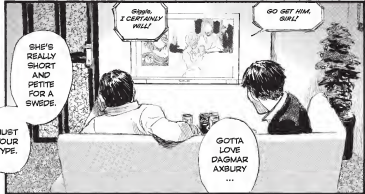


HERE
YOU GO.



I'LL GO WHEN
I FEEL BETTER.

YOU'RE SEEING
YOUR BOYFRIEND
TODAY, AREN'T
YOU?



SHE'S
REALLY
SHORT
AND
PETITE
FOR A
SWED.

Giggles.
I CERTAINLY
WILL!

GO GET HIM,
GIRL!

JUST
YOUR
TYPE.

GOTTA
LOVE
DAGMAR
AXBURY
...



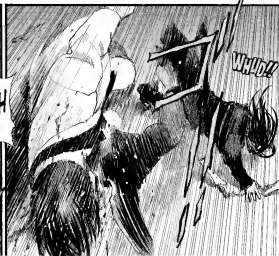
SHUT
THE
FUCK
UP















...SHUT
UP.

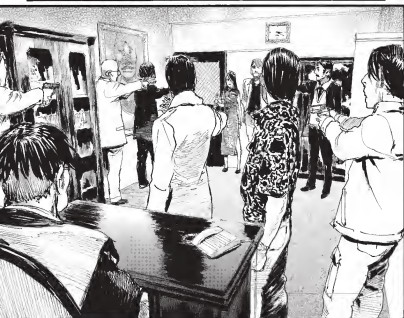


...BUT I SAW
YOUR UPPER
ARM GET
GRAZED BY
THAT FIRST
BULLET.



YOU'RE
PLAYING
IT COOL
...







BITTEN BY
A NOBODY
LIKE YOU!
WHAT A STAIN
UPON THE
KAKESU-
GUMI!

OH...
KUDO!

IF IT
ISN'T
KUDO!



THEN YOU
SHOULD
KNOW THAT
MY NAME IS
KURAHIKO
SHINDO
NOW.

I'M
BACK,
BOSS.
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

AZUMA
TOLD
YOU I WAS
COMING, I
SUPPOSE?



I'M
AWARE THAT
AZUMA WAS
CONCERNED
WITH YOUR
NEW TEAM'S
DEALINGS...



...BUT HE
NEVER
TOLD ME
WHAT HE
WAS DOING
ABOUT IT.

IN
FACT
I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS.



KUDO.

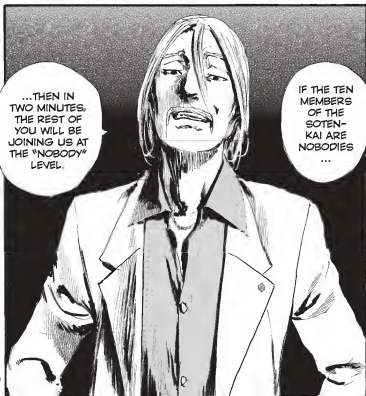
YOU WON'T
FIND WHAT
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR HERE.



BUT
ENOUGH
ABOUT
THAT.

MY
STANDING IS
IN TATTERS,
NOW THAT
YOU'RE AT THE
FOREFRONT OF
THE JIHISHIN-
KAI.

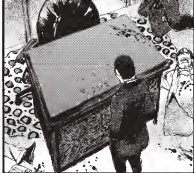
DON'T
YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY
TO ME?



...THEN IN
TWO MINUTES,
THE REST OF
YOU WILL BE
JOINING US AT
THE "NOBODY"
LEVEL.

IF THE TEN
MEMBERS
OF THE
SOTEN-
KAI ARE
NOBODIES
...





KUDO...



EVERY-
THING'S
ABOUT THE
RECESSION
TO YOU.

THREE
AT ONCE...
IS IT THE
RECESSION
P



LET'S
MAKE A
BUNCH OF
MONEY,
YEAH?



HA
HA
...

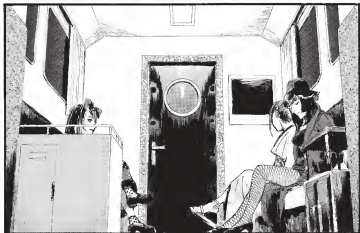
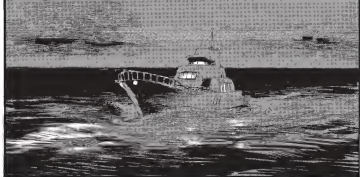


IF THE
WHORES DIED
UP WHEN THE
ECONOMY WAS
GOOD, WHAT
WOULD A
LOSER DO
THEN?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
LADIES
?!



I'M
DOWN
FOR THAT.



YOU'RE
SHINING IN
A WAY YOU
NEVER DID
BEFORE!

YOU
LOOK
LIKE YOU
WERE
BORN
TO BE
WHORES.



LET ME
SAY...



...YEAH.
GREAT.

COULDN'T
RESIST
COSTUMES
BOUGHT BY
THE YAKUZA
← →



Спасибо.
(THANK YOU)



ONLY IN
HOKKAIDO.

BUT
THIS IS
HONSHU.

BUT A
RUSSIAN
WOULD
NOT.



A GERMAN
WOMAN
TRAVELING
ALONE IN
JAPAN
WOULD
STICK OUT.



WHY DO YOU
PASS YOUR-
SELF OFF AS
RUSSIAN?

YOU'RE
THAT
GERMAN
CHICK
RIGHT?



I USED
TO THINK
JAPANESE AND
KOREAN WOMEN
WERE INDISTIN-
GUISHABLE.

BUT SIDE-
BY-SIDE,
IT'S CLEAR
WHICH
ONE IS
SUPERIOR.

YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU CAN
PASS YOUR-
SELF OFF
LIKE THAT?

WHAAAT?
GERMAN AND
RUSSIAN WOMEN
ARE ON OPPOSITE
ENDS OF THE
BEAUTY SCALE.



HURRY,
PLEASE.

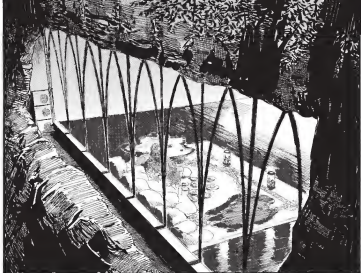
ARE
WE
THERE
YET?





PRESIDENT'S
WAITING

AH.



WELL,
THAT
WAS
QUICK.





CONGRAT-
ULATIONS
ON TAKING
OVER YOUR
BRANCH.

SHROE-
KUN.



SAME THING
FOR THIS
JAPANESE,
SR... SAMUEP
QUITE COMFORT-
ABLE.

I'VE BEEN
DRAWN TO
THIS STYLE
LATELY.
VERY
RELAXING.

IT'S
VERY...
NOMADIC
HERE.



THANK
YOU,
SR.



MMM.
A GOOD
BATCH.

...



IT'S
MONGOLIAN-
STYLE MARE'S
MILK LIQUOR.
HOMEMADE.

DOES
IT
SMELL
?



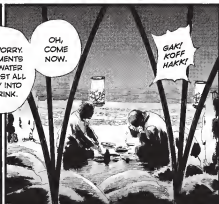


MADE FROM THE
MILK OF HORSES
RAISED ON THIS
ISLAND'S WATER.
INCIDENTALLY.



DON'T WORRY.
THE ELEMENTS
OF THE WATER
DON'T LAST ALL
THE WAY INTO
THIS DRINK.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
TREAT
IT WITH
DISGUST
EITHER.



OH,
COME
NOW.

GA!
KOFF
HAKKI!

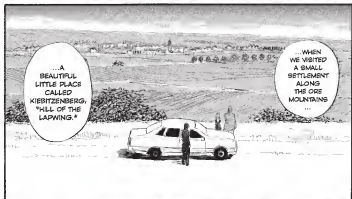
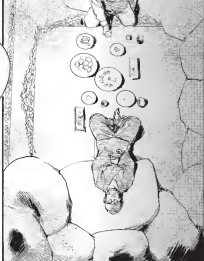


...INTO
QUITE A
LOT OF
MONEY,
AFTER
ALL.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO BE
TURNING
THIS
WATER...



THIS ALL
STARTED
TWENTY
YEARS
AGO...

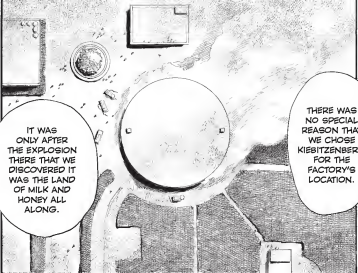


...A
BEAUTIFUL
LITTLE PLACE
CALLED
KIEBITZENBERG,
"HILL OF THE
LAPWING."

...WHEN
WE VISITED
A SMALL
SETTLEMENT
ALONG
THE ORE
MOUNTAINS

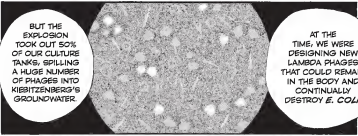


THAT'S
WHERE WE
BUILT OUR
COMPANY'S
THIRD
FACTORY.



IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION THERE THAT WE DISCOVERED IT WAS THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY ALL ALONG.

THERE WAS NO SPECIAL REASON THAT WE CHOSE KIEBITZENBERG FOR THE FACTORY'S LOCATION.



BUT THE EXPLOSION TOOK OUT 50% OF OUR CULTURE TANKS, SPILLING A HUGE NUMBER OF PHAGES INTO KIEBITZENBERG'S GROUNDWATER.

AT THE TIME, WE WERE DESIGNING NEW LAMBOA PHAGES THAT COULD REMAIN IN THE BODY AND CONTINUALLY DESTROY *E. COLI*.



WE DETECTED THE PHAGES IN THE BLOOD OF 90% OF THEM.

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.



WE HASTILY QUARANTINED THE RESIDENTS, WHO TOOK ALL OF THEIR WATER FROM LOCAL WELLS.



THEY
WERE NOT
THE KIND THAT
LINK WITH THE
BACTERIA TO
INCREASE
TOXICITY.

THE
PHAGES
DO NOT
INFECT
PEOPLE.

IN ITSELF,
THAT WAS
NOT A
MAJOR
PROBLEM.



SHE HAD
STAGE II-B
CERVICAL
CANCER.

THIS IS
A LOCAL
RESIDENT.
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?



ON
THE
CON-
TRARY



BUT
LOOK
NOW!

WHAT THE
HELL ARE
ALL THESE
BACTERIA
IN THE
UTERUS
?!

THE
BACTERIA WE
DISCOVERED

...WHAT
IS THIS?



IT HOSTED
A KIND OF
CRYOPHELIC
ARCHAEA THAT
BROKE DOWN
THE RARE EARTH
CHEMICALS.

THE
VILLAGE
GROUND-
WATER
ALREADY
CONTAINED
RADIOACTIVE
RARE EARTH.



A TYPE OF
BACTERIA
FOUND
ONLY IN THE
RESIDENTS
OF KIEBITZEN-
BERG, DUE
TO THEIR
GROUND-
WATER.

TO OUR
SURPRISE,
THESE
ARCHAEA
WERE WHAT
KIEVEL 1
FED UPON.



...WE
NAMED
"KIEVEL 1,"
AFTER
KIEBITZEN-
BERG.



NOW
WE HAVE
FOUND
THREE
LOCATIONS...

...WITH
WATER
SOURCES
THAT ARE
NEARLY
IDENTICAL.



...OF
WHICH
YOU ARE
QUITE
AWARE.

WHEN
THIS GERM
INFECTED THE
PHAGES OUR
COMPANY WAS
DESIGNING...

...IT HAD
A RATHER
STUNNING
EFFECT...



ISHIKUNAGIJIMA,
JAPAN.

HWAMEI
DISTRICT,
CHINA.

KIEBITZEN-
BERG,
GERMANY.



OUR
ONLY GOAL,
IN ALL TRUTH,
IS TO HEAL
THE SICK.

IT'S A MYSTE-
RIOUS THING
...

...
ISN'T IT?

...
HEH
HEH
!

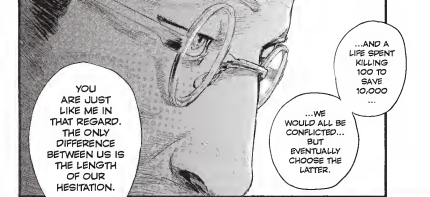
BETWEEN A
LIFE SPENT
WITHOUT
MURDERING
OR SAVING
A SINGLE
PERSON...

ISN'T
THAT
RIGHT,
SHIROE-
KUN?

...WILL
NOT
STOP
US.

THE
SUFFER-
ING
...

BUT THE
SUFFERING
WE CAUSE
...



YOU
ARE JUST
LIKE ME IN
THAT REGARD.
THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US IS
THE LENGTH
OF OUR
HESITATION.

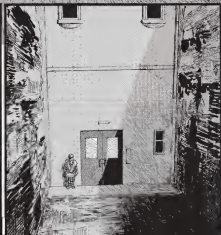
...AND A
LIFE SPENT
KILLING
100 TO
SAVE
10,000
...

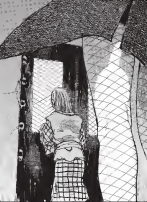
...WE
WOULD ALL BE
CONFLICTED...
BUT
EVENTUALLY
CHOOSE THE
LATTER.





#13 - **Bordell** (Brothel)





COME
IN.



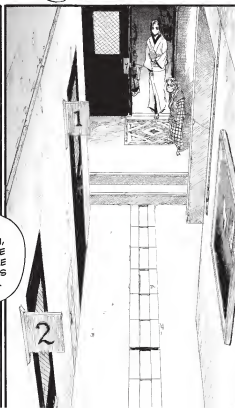
YOU
TAKE IT
FROM
HERE.

SURE.



GO IN
ROOM 1,
CHANGE
INTO THE
CLOTHES
INSIDE.

ONCE
YOU'RE
DONE,
GO IN
ROOM
2.







SOLI KIL.

NAMI
SAVRASOVA.

SHINOBU
AZA.



SPREAD
...P



YOU WILL
TAKE TURNS
SITTING
ON THE
STOOL AND
SPREADING.

WHEN
THAT'S DONE,
WE'LL DRAW
BLOOD IN
THE NEXT
ROOM.



I
DON'T
HAVE
ANY
STDs
...

WELL,
I'M NOT
TAKING
YOUR
WORD
FOR IT!
SIT.



THUD!







Herrlich!
MIR LÄUFT
DAS WASSER
IM UNTERMUND
ZUSAMMEN.

(AMAZING! MY
PUSSY'S GETTING
WET ALREADY.)



WHERE
THE
FUCK
AM I
P!

NO
WAY.

THIS
MUST BE SO
NOSTALGIC
FOR YOU.







ME
PRE-
FEC-
TURE.

...
WHERE'S
SHIMA,
AGAIN?

ARE YOU
AWARE OF
W. ISLAND
IN SHIMA
PENINSULA
?

SHI-
NOBU.

Oh!



AT
ITS PEAK
IN THE
MID-20TH
CENTURY,
THEY HAD
OVER 200
WHORES.
IT'S SAID.

PROSTITUTION WAS
A MAJOR INDUSTRY
ON THE ISLAND.
HISTORICAL RECORDS
EXIST FROM THE EDO
PERIOD THAT SHOW
THEY CATERED TO
SAILORS THERE.

Why
do
girls
do
this?

IT'S A
PLACE CALLED A
"RED-LIGHT
ISLAND" AMONG
THOSE
IN THE KNOW



WHEN A PORT
STAGNATES,
THE BROTHELS
SELLING TO
SAILORS
STAGNATE
AS WELL.
THE SAME
APPLIES FOR
AN ENTIRE
ISLAND.

It's also
okay that
the high-class
prostitute
has to
put this on

THEY
CROSSED
THE SEA
TO BUY
SEX?
THAT'S
CRAZY...



...AND IT'S
MOSTLY
BEEN
PHASED
OUT FOR
TOURISM
NOW.

AS TIME
PASSED,
THE SEX
TRADE
STAG-
NATED...



IF THE
SOTEN-KAI'S
PROFITS ARE
BEING BUOYED
BY ISHIKUNAGI'S
PROFITS, THAT
SPEAKS TO THE
SUCCESS OF
THE BUSINESS
MODEL.

DESPITE
THE FACT
THAT THE
LOCATION IS
FAR MORE
REMOTE
THAN W.
ISLAND!

PRECISELY.
WITH THAT
GENERAL
TREND IN MIND,
WHY DID THE
SOTEN-KAI
CHOOSE
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA
TO BE A NEW
"RED-LIGHT
ISLAND"?



...AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY
HOW DID
THEY GET
THEM?

WHAT
IS THE
REASON
FOR
HANDLING
SUCH A
THING...

HUMAN
PETURES.

WE MUST
NOT FORGET
THE *PRODUCT*
OF THE DEAL.
THE SOTEN-KAI
OVERSAW.

ONE
MORE
THING.



REAL
NASTY
BUSINESS
...

...



THEY MUST
HAVE SOME
SYSTEM THAT
DOESN'T BECOME
CLEAR UNLESS
YOU WORK
THERE.

SHINOBU,
SOLI, NAMI...
WE MUST
ASK YOU TO
UNDERGO THE
TOUGHEST
JOB OF
ALL.



OH?!
R-ROGER!

JUST MEP
JACKPOT!

RO,
YOU WILL
TRAVEL TO THE
ISLAND FOR THE
PURPOSE OF
BUYING THE
WOMEN.



UNLESS
A BETTER PLAN
COMES ALONG,
WE WILL FOLLOW
YOUR SUSPICION
THAT ISHIKUNAGIJIMA
HOSTS A BRANCH
OFFICE OR FACTORY
OF THE COMPANY
THAT DEALT WITH
THE GOTEN-KAI
THAT NIGHT.

WE WILL BE
SEARCHING
LOCATIONS
OUTSIDE OF
THE BROTHEL
DISTRICT.

NAMI...



DON'T LET
HER OUT
OF YOUR
SIGHT,
PLEASE.

SHI-
NOBU



I THINK
YOU UN-
DERSTAND

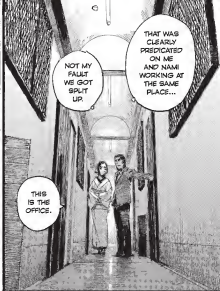
...THAT JUST
BECAUSE
WE'RE
WORKING
WITH HER
DOESN'T
MEAN WE
TRUST HER.

...TO HAVE
THE YAKUZA
TRUST ME?

HOW, WHEN
AND WHAT
DID I DO...

YEAH...
SURE
THING.













AM I
CRAZY OR
SOME-
THING?
I'M A
FORMER
RESIDENT
OF THE
ISLAND!

AND
WHO
GOES TO
WORK
AT A
BROTHEL
...

...ON THE
ARGUMENT
OF A DAMN
YAKUZA!



JUST
THINK
ABOUT
IT.



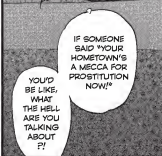
I SHOULD
POP INTO
THE VILLAGE
AND BE LIKE,
"WAW LONG
TIME NO SEE!
HOW COME
BUSINESS IS
BOOMING
ALL OF A
SUDDEN!"

OH
YEAH!
THAT'S
RIGHT!

WHY
GATHER
INFO
HERE?



WHOA...



IF SOMEONE
SAID "YOUR
HOMETOWN'S
A MECCA FOR
PROSTITUTION
NOW!"

YOU'D
BE LIKE,
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
?!



ONCE I'M
BACK HOME,
EVERYTHING
WILL BECOME
CLEAR.

FORGET
THE
MANUAL!
GO INTO
TOWN!

I DIDN'T EVEN
REALIZE HOW
POINTLESS MY
ACTIONS WERE
UNTIL JUST
THIS VERY
MOMENT!





...
BUT
THE
TRIP'S
BEEN
WORTH
IT
NOW.

A FRIEND
TOLD ME,
"YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE THE
QUALITY GIRLS
THEY HAVE, FOR
HOW REMOTE
THE ISLAND IS."
I DIDN'T BELIEVE
HIM AT FIRST...



VERY
NICE.
SCORE
ONE FOR
ME.

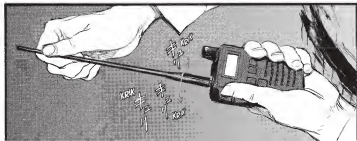
OH-
HO.

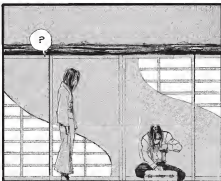
DAMN...
OH-HO.

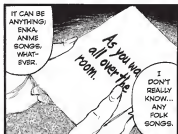


40,000
FOR A
FULL
NIGHT?

THAT'S
CHEAP.









TO
BOLD
AND
DARING
TSURU-
GAMINE~

FROM
THE SUN
OF ISARI-
KONO~



GRACE
OUR
SACRED
PLACE OF
LEARNING~

THE
WHITE
SAILS
OF
TAZE-
GAURA~



E-LE-
MEN-
TA-
RYYY~

KIRI-
SHIMAAA~

THIS
IS KIRI-
SHIMA~



YOU
GUESSED
IT.

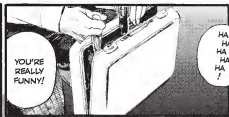


YOUR
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
SONG?



YOU'RE
A PRETTY
GOOD
SINGER,
TOO.

WOW,
VERY
NICE!
THANK
YOU.



YOU'RE
REALLY
FUNNY!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
!



COME
HERE.



PUT THE
CONDOM
ON HIS
FINGER
...

UM...
WHAT DID
THE MAN-
UAL SAY?

WIPES
HIS FACE
WITH THE
TOWEL.



I WON-
DER
...

THAT
REMINDS
ME...

...WHAT
SUGITO'S
DOING...



FUCK,
I'VE FOR-
GOTTEN
IT ALL!







TELL ME
WHATEVER
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THIS
PLACE.

SO I'LL
ASK VERY
QUIETLY.

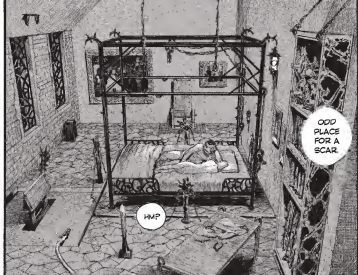
I
DON'T
WANT
THEM
AWARE
THAT I'M
AWARE
OF IT.

BUT
I CAN'T
REMOVE
IT.

THERE'S
A BUG
BELOW
THE
PLUM
TREE.

WH...
WHO ARE
YOU...?

DAISUKE
KURIFU—
FREELANCE
JOURNALIST.



ODD
PLACE
FOR A
SCAR.

HMP



THE
MEN WHO
KNOW IT'S
A BULLET
WOUND...

...AND ASK
FOR THE
REASON I
GOT IT...



BULLET
WOUND,
RIGHT?

WHAT DID YOU
DO TO GET
SHOT
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS?



RIGHT
HERE.



...TEND
NOT TO
LIVE VERY
LONG
AFTER
THAT.



IT MAKES
SENSE YOU
WOULD
RUN HERE.

IT
MIGHT BE A
RUIN NOW...
BUT THIS
VILLAGE IS
YOUR HOME.



TRÄNE
...

WRRG...
AAAH!



WE MUST
TAKE HER,
I'M AFRAID.

BUT WE
WERE THE
ONES WHO
PLANTED
THIS
CHILD'S
SEED.



GIVE
HER
BACK
!

GIVE
HER...
BACK
TO ME!

FUCK
YOU
...



AAAAHHH!!

PLEASE,
GIVE
HER
BACK
!!

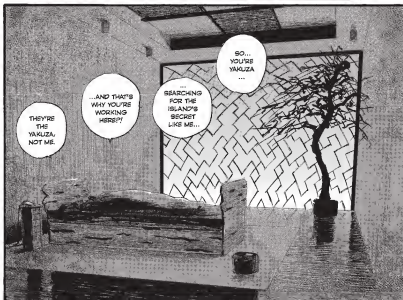


#14

Ko to Oya
(Mother and Child)



...SORRY...



THEY'RE
THE
YAKUZA,
NOT ME.

...AND THAT'S
WHY YOU'RE
WORKING
HERE?!

...
SEARCHING
FOR THE
ISLAND'S
SECRET
LIKE ME...

SO...
YOU'RE
YAKUZA
...



WELL,
SURE.

BUT I
DON'T
THINK
THEY'LL
WORK
WITH
YOU.



CAN YOU
INTRODUCE
ME TO
THOSE
YAKUZA
THEN?



So there's
no idea to
exchange
?

AND
YOU ONLY
STARTED
TODAY?!

DO I LOOK
LIKE SUCH
A TYPICAL
PROSTITUTE
?

SORRY
YOU
KINDA
DO.



THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO WANT
THE DETAILS OF
THEIR FUTURE
BUSINESS
PARTNER BEING
SPREAD IN
THE MEDIA.

THEY'RE
ONLY DOING THIS
BECAUSE THERE'S A
DIFFERENT YAKUZA
GROUP CALLED
THE SOTEN-KAI
THAT RULES
ISHIKUNAGIUMA

...AND
THEY WANT
TO TAKE THE
SOTEN-KAI'S
PLACE AS THE
TRADING PARTNER
FOR WHOEVER
DOES BUSINESS
HERE.



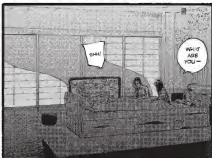
MEANING
WHAT?



ON THE
OTHER
HAND...

...THEY
DID SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE, "WE
CAN'T GET
OUR HANDS
ON STUFF
LIKE THIS."







MEANS
I DON'T
CARRY ANY
SENSITIVE
NOTES WITH
ME, SEEP?



I TYPE IN
THE INTEL
I GLEAN
ON THE
SPOT...

...SENDING
IT TO MY
HOME PC.
THEN
DELETING
THE SEND
HISTORY.



TEXTING
SOME-
ONE?



CHINA?



IT'S AN
EQUAL
TRADE.

...ALL
RIGHT,
FAIR
PLAY.



IT'S A TRICK I
LEARNED FROM
MY MENTOR, WHO
DISAPPEARED
WHILE TRACKING
THIS CASE IN
CHINA.

...?

HAVE YOUR
FRIENDS TOLD YOU
ABOUT A PLACE
CALLED HWAMEI IN
CHINA'S GUIZHOU
PROVINCE?

UNTIL
SIX YEARS
AGO, HWAMEI
DISTRICT WAS
ONLY KNOWN
AS "HWAMEI
VILLAGE."

...
SERIOUSLY?
WELL, TRUE,
IT'S NOT
WELL-
KNOWN.

I'VE
NEVER EVEN
HEARD OF
GUIZHOU.

BUT
OUT OF
NOWHERE,
SIX YEARS
AGO...

...IT
EXPLODES
INTO THE
GREATEST
PLEASURE
TOWN IN
THE
NATION.

GUIZHOU'S
A POOR
PROVINCE,
SUPPORTED BY
AGRICULTURE
AND MINERAL
DEPOSITS.

SAME
GOES
FOR
HWAMEI.

USED TO BE
ONE OF THE
POOREST
TOWNS IN
ALL OF
CHINA.



IT'S BECAUSE
IT'S LABELED
A "SPECIAL
DISTRICT"...

A HUGE
ADVANTAGE IN
CHINA, WHERE
THE MAXIMUM
SENTENCE FOR
PROSTITUTION
IS DEATH.

AT THE
SAME TIME, ITS
ADMINISTRATIVE
TITLE TURNS
TO "HWAMEI
DISTRICT"—
TECHNICALLY
"HWAMEI SPECIAL
DISTRICT"

ON TOP OF THAT...
WHEN THE EXPO AND
OLYMPICS CAME, ALL
THE CHINESE CITIES
SUFFERED A HUGE
SAO HUANG, BUT
FOR WHATEVER
REASON, HWAMEI
DISTRICT DID NOT
GET SINGLED OUT
FOR ANYTHING.

SAO HUANG breakdown on porno/sec trade



HEH

SOUNDS
LIKE THE
CHANGES IN
A CERTAIN
REMOTE
ISLAND,
DOESN'T
IT?



IT
SOUNDS
LIKE...





LET'S
CALL
THEM
"COMPANY
A."

...WAS THE
ABNORMAL
POLITICAL
INTER-
VENTION OF
A FOREIGN
CORPORA-
TION.

BEHIND THE
SCENES OF
HWAMEI'S
SHIFT FROM A
VILLAGE TO A
"DISTRICT"...



THEY MADE A
DEAL TO SECURE
HWAMEI AUTONOMY AS
A SPECIAL ECONOMIC
DISTRICT BY PAYING
FAR MORE TO THE
PROVINCE THAN THE
VILLAGE COULD
AFFORD ON THEIR
AGRICULTURE
ALONE.

MORE
ACCURA-
TELY...



COMPANY
A BOUGHT
CONTROL
OF HWAMEI
WHOLESALE
FROM THE
LOCAL
GOVERN-
MENT.



IN
ORDER FOR
COMPANY A
TO SECURE
THE SOURCE
INGREDIENT
OF A PRODUCT
FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS
...

THAT
INGREDIENT
WAS NOT
CROPS OR
MINING, OF
COURSE.

...THEY
NEEDED A
RADICAL
REORGANI-
ZATION OF
HWAMEI'S
LOCAL
BUSINESS.



WHY
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
THEY DID
THAT?



IN
ESSENCE,
I AM REFER-
RING TO THEIR
YAKUZA—
THEIR MOB-
STERS.

COMPANY A
LEFT THE PRACTICAL
OPERATION OF
HWAMEI DISTRICT'S
SEX TRADE IN THE
HANDS OF GUIZHOU'S
BLACK MARKET
OVERLORDS.



...EVERY
WHORSHOUSE
IN HWAMEI
HAS AT LEAST
ONE ROOM IN
WHICH JOHNS
GET TO FUCK
WITHOUT CON-
TRA-
CEPTION.

JUST
LIKE
AT THIS
BROTHEL
...



JUST
LIKE ISHI-
KUNAGI-
JIMA...

THAT'S NOT
THE ONLY
SIMILARITY.



IF SHE
GIVES BIRTH,
COMPANY A WILL
BUY THE BABY
FOR ANOTHER
30,000 YUAN.

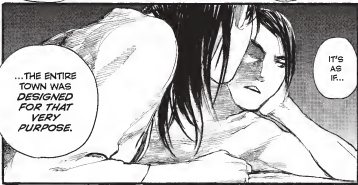
ANY GIRL
WHO GETS
PREGNANT FROM
THAT EARNS A
SPECIAL 30,000
YUAN STIPEND.



MORALS ARE
AN ILLUSION
AFFORDABLE ONLY
TO THE WEALTHY.
IMPOVERISHED WOMEN
FLOCK TO THE AREA,
POPPING OUT LITTLE
BASTARDS EACH
AND EVERY DAY.

NO
NEED TO
RAISE THE
CHILD.

AND YOU
GET LOTS
OF MONEY.
SEE HOW IT
WORKS?



...THE ENTIRE
TOWN WAS
DESIGNED
FOR THAT
VERY
PURPOSE.

IT'S
AS
IF...



WHAT
THEY WANT
IS THE
CHILDREN.



THE
RED-LIGHT
DISTRICT
IS JUST A
MEANS TO
THAT END.

MANY
POSSIBILI-
TIES COME
TO MIND.



NO
CONGLOM-
ERATE LIKE
COMPANY
A, NO
MATTER THE
INDUSTRY...

...ACTUALLY
REVOLVES
AROUND
OPERATING A
PROSTITUTION
RING.



WHAT
ABOUT
HEIHAIZI
?



I
MEAN

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
CHILDREN...
IN CHINA.

YOU
KNOW
US.

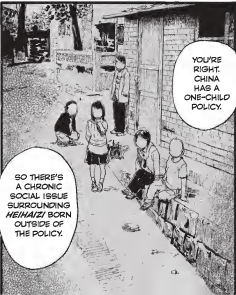


ISN'T
THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH THAT
IDEA?

...HEY,
WAIT!
HANG
ON!



WHICH
PART?



YOU'RE
RIGHT.
CHINA
HAS A
ONE-CHILD
POLICY.

SO THERE'S
A CHRONIC
SOCIAL ISSUE
SURROUNDING
HEIHAIZI BORN
OUTSIDE OF
THE POLICY.



HA
HA!

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW THAT
WORD...
BUT NOT
GUIZHOU
PROVINCE
?!



THERE'S
NO REASON
FOR THEM TO
REMAKE AN
ENTIRE TOWN
AT GREAT
COST.

THAT'S
WHERE MY
MENTOR AND
ME
GOT
STUCK.

IF THEY JUST
WANT BABIES,
THE BLACK
MARKET CAN
PROVIDE THOSE
ON THE CHEAP
ANYWHERE.



WHAT IF
WHAT COMPANY
A WANTS
...

...ISN'T
"CHILDREN"
...



AFTER
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID,
I HAVE
AN IDEA.

BUT...



...IN
HWAMEI
DISTRICT
P

...BUT
CHILDREN
WHO WERE
BORN...



THIS
ISLAND OF
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA...

SHIHO-
CHAN.



WHICH
MEANS
...

THIS IS A
REMOTE
ISLAND —
IT'S EVEN LESS
SUITED FOR
A RED-LIGHT
DISTRICT THAN
HWAMEI.

...THAT THE
INVOLVEMENT
OF COMPANY
A IS UN-
DENIABLE.

...LOOKS
SO MUCH
LIKE
HWAMEI!
...



...IT ALL
MAKES
SENSE.



...IF
THEY'RE
AFTER
CHILDREN
BORN ON
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA...



YOU'VE
ALREADY
GOT THE
RIGHT
BLOOD.

YEAH,
YOU'D
QUALIFY.



I
GUESS YOU
REALLY ARE
FROM THIS
ISLAND.



MOTHER-
FUCKERS
...

...SHIT!

WHAT
THE HELL'S
GOING ON?
IT'S SO
CREEPY...



...AND
ISHIKUNAGI-
JIMA...

...BY
HWAMEI
DISTRICT...



IF
THERE'S
SOME
SPECIAL
QUALITY
SHARED
...



...



...SO I CAN
WRITE MY
ARTICLE.

THEN
THAT'S
ALL I
NEED
TO FIND
OUT...



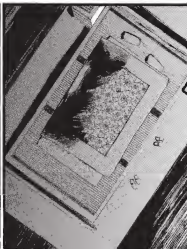
BUT THEY'RE
GOING TO BE
SUSPICIOUS
UNLESS
THEY HEAR
THE RIGHT
SOUNDS,
YOU KNOW
P

IT DIDN'T
OCCUR TO
HIM THAT I
CAN MOAN
ON MY
OWNP



UM!
I...

I'M
YOUR FIRST
CUSTOMER,
RIGHT?
I KNOW.







...

sigh...



...SORRY...

I JUST
STARTED
THINKING
ABOUT...
WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN
IF I GOT
PREGNANT
...



FLOONK



CAN I GET
40,000
YEN WORTH
OF TITTY-
FONDLE
P

SURE, IF
THAT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH.

FONDLE
AWAY...



HERE'S
AN
IDEA.



NAH,
FORGET IT.
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SUG-
GESTED IT.

I'M
SORRY...
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



I JUST
HOPE
HE GETS
TO THE
MAINLAND
SAFELY...

I'LL BE
BACK LATER...
HOPEFULLY
FOR SOME
OF YOUR
INFORMA-
TION.

...

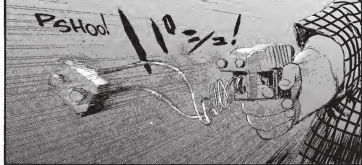
I'LL
GO INTO
TOWN.
GOT A TON
OF THINGS
TO ASK...

WELL,
THE OLD
CRYING
BIT GOT
ME OUT
OF IT.

I'm not
such a
wimp that
I'd cry
like that
for real.









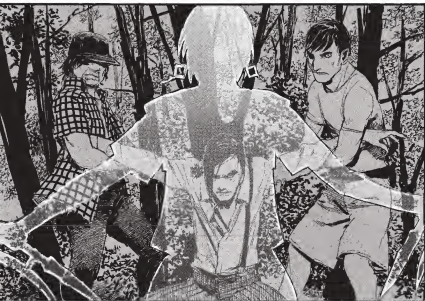


I'M
SURPRISED
YOU WOULD
RECOGNIZE
IT.

THE PS VEDA,
OBVIOUSLY.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
THIS IS?







WITH THE WEIGHT OF THOSE MOONFANGS, YOU CAN EASILY SPLIT HIS COLLARBONES. THE PROBLEM IS THE NEXT STEP.

HERE WE GO.

IT'S OUR SECOND TEST.



THE LEFT BLADE MUST PLUNGE INTO THE ANGLE AND SEPARATE THE MANUBRIUM AND STERNUM AND CUT THEM OUT.

THAT'S THE RIGHT HAND'S JOB.

YOU NEED TO SLIDE THE BLADES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND RIBS TO GOUGE THE STERNAL ANGLE.



YSS, IT'S THROUGH HIS CLOTHES, BUT YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU REMEMBER OUR INSTRUCTIONS.











I ALMOST
CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW QUICKLY
YOU'VE
LEARNED!

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
SHINOBU-
CHAN?

Die Wergelder



Das Ende

To be continued.

Shindo and Jie Mao's **FEAST**









"THE WAITER JUST SAID THE
NEXT DISH IS BULL WHIP..."



"*NIU BIAN* MEANS
BULL WHIP, RIGHT?"



"THAT'S JUST SLANG.
IT'S BULL PENIS STEW."



"OH... RIGHT..."

And that was the start of *Die Wergelder*, the manga with the 2010s *chu-ni* style¹¹ to it. Since the whole idea came about from a couple drunks chatting about the Pinky Violence¹² movies, and you've now read the first volume, I think you can safely see that this is shaping up to be a manga without any dignity. When I write it that way, it sounds like I've actually drawn a manga that isn't utterly vulgar before. I'm sure there's at least one. Let me try to remember...

On a different subject, my editor said, "*Nemesis*¹³ is a magazine with very little publicity¹⁴, so please do some stealth marketing¹⁵ in the afterword." Unrelated to any stealth marketing, it made me very happy to do work¹⁶ with Kotaro Ohkoshi¹⁷, of whom I've always been a big fan (see Figure B¹⁸ and Figure C¹⁹). Wow, all of this afterword writing has gotten me hungry. Maybe I'll have some soba²⁰ for lunch. Or perhaps a juicy issue of *Nemesis*... (That was the stealth marketing)

AFTERWORD 後記

—HIROAKI SAMURA—

It feels like this manga had already begun when my editor¹ for *Blade of the Immortal*² said, "I'm surprised you've never drawn an action manga with a character in a China dress³ before," and I found it odd that he was right. About ten years ago, we shared drinks and laughed about how to go about it, deciding that if it were to be done, we'd need to give it a 1970s Toei style⁴, with a black-clad character on a quest for vengeance like *Female Convict Scorpion*⁵, and maybe a *sukeban*⁶ character thrown in there for good measure. On a lark, I whipped up a teaser illustration⁷, which can be seen in Figure A⁸. Some of you might recognize this. After that, my editor was moved to the Sirius⁹ editorial office, and called me out of the blue to say, "We're going to start a new magazine¹⁰, so I need you to draw that thing we talked about right away." My only response was, "Huh? Wait... what...?"

6 - **SUKEBAN**: A slang word meaning stupid, "girl boss," but is more general usage, "delinquent girl." Reiko Ika and Miki Sugimoto basically defined the image through the *Tammy Girl*'s *High School* and *Girl Boss* film series made in the early 1970s. Mr. Samura loves them as well.

7 - **TEASER ILLUSTRATION**: The temporary title "China Cat Dress Girl" came from the title of a song on the Burlesque Empire album *Dead War*, which Mr. Samura often listened to at the time. The man in the background (who was planned to be a British lord) may or may not appear in *Die Wergelder*.

8 - **FIGURE A**: This came from an article in the September 2003 issue of *Murphy's Afternoon*. It was also printed in the 20th volume of *Blade of the Immortal*. The extremely sarcastic and unpopular text in the article was an homage to the scandal articles in a certain sidekick(?) magazine that Mr. Samura was sent at the time.

9 - **SIRIUS**: *Shonen Sirius*, a monthly shonen fantasy magazine published by Kodansha on the 28th of every month. Its signature series are *Princess Akasandora* and *Robinson Quarter*. Please be aware that *Warguider* is not a *Shonen Sirius* title!

10 - **NEW MAGAZINE**: The *Shonen Sirius* offshoot magazine, *Reverie*. See footnote 13.

11 - **CHU-NI STYLE**: Settings, dialogue and characters thought to appeal with those possessing a clavyshe mindset (embarrassing "second year middle-schooler syndrome"). For Mr. Samura's view on the "chu-ni" phenomenon, please read the "Shizuru Onuma" story in his short story collection, *Sister Generator*.

FOOTNOTES 脚註

1 - **EDITOR**: Mr. Samura's manga editor for *Afternoon* at the time. His primary duties were transporting the finished chapter to the office and rocking Mr. Samura awake when he was in danger of falling asleep on the job.

2 - **BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL**: Mr. Samura's signature and longest work, of which we are all familiar. It began in the pages of *Afternoon* starting in December 1993, and is styled a "two volume epic." All 30 volumes are out now.

3 - **CHINA DRESS**: A traditional outfit for Chinese women, known as a *qipao*. Based on the outfit worn by Manchurian nobles during the Qing dynasty. They are beloved for their erotic sensuality, which means that naturally, Mr. Samura loves them.

4 - **1970s TOEI STYLE**: Referring to the general style of 1970s films produced by Toei, one of the biggest and most recognizable movie studios in Japan. The anime movement of the 1960s led to the 1970s genre movement (such as the *Big Girl* series) and the realistic *yakuza* movement (such as the *Brides Without Honor* and *Humankind* series).

5 - **FEMALE CONVICT SCORPION**: A movie series created by Toei, based on the geisha series *Sesson* by Toru Shiohara. The lead of Naoko Kog, who played the original *Scorpion* (72-73), is basically Mr. Samura's twelfth thing.



FIGURE A



FIGURE B



FIGURE C

17 - KOTARO OHKOSHI: A mangaka. His major works are *Isaki Kuu Mushi* and *Ayoko Koi Marusa*. His graceful, beautiful and eerie artwork is influenced by Shuhei Matsu and Katsuhiko Otonari, and despite his low profile, he has a devoted following. He and Mr. Samura collaborated on an album cover for the Japanese heavy metal band Ningen Jai. He recently started a Westerner called *Zoro* in the pages of *Nemesis*, the first chapter of which appeared in issue 10. He is currently working hard on the second chapter.

18 - FIGURE B: Collaboration No. 1, given out as a prize after issue 4 to celebrate the [Samura x Ohkoshi] interview. It's a combination of original characters created for the image. It was a very crazy idea to just give away the original artwork.

19 - FIGURE C: Collaboration No. 2, given out as a prize after issue 5 to celebrate the [Samura x Ohkoshi] interview. It features main characters of both artists' new series—the title of *Die Wargelder* and *Zoro* Bastien of *Zoro*.

20 - GOMA: One of the principal types of Japanese noodles, and a veritable staple of Japanese cuisine. It is made of processed buckwheat. It is healthy and easily portable for delivery, and such a common part of Japanese life that one of the classic hobbies of the nation's fathers is "making soba." Needless to say, it is one of Mr. Samura's favorites.

21 - PINKY VIOLENCE: The term for the entertainment-minded feature films based around ensembles and action produced by Toei in the '60s and '70s. The term is thought to have spread from J-iro Sugawara and Takeshi Uechi's *Five Pinky Violence Roman Album* book. Significant examples of this style are the *Get Back* and *Finalist Convict Scorpion* series, as well as the works of Teruo Ishii.

22 - NEMESIS: A seasonal magazine initiated in 2010 as an offshoot of *Shonen Gensetsu*, published in January, April, July and October. The collected volumes are printed in the Shuei Comics line, but none of them can be described as "shonen." Both Samura and Kotaro Ohkoshi recommend the series *Kyoko Sakurai*, and offered their own pull quotes for the first volume.

23 - PUBLICITY: *Nemesis* does not undertake any advertising of its own. Its biggest publicity is as an ad that runs in *Shuei* every month. Though it is quarterly, we hope that you will enjoy Mr. Samura's hard work as a serial story through the magazine. Also, every issue has a giveaway of signed original art replicas. Between you and me, I hear it's very easy to win there...

24 - STEALTH MARKETING: Advertising a product such that a consumer buys it without realizing they've been conditioned to do so. Therefore, this entire afterward has completely failed to qualify as stealth marketing.

25 - WORK: It wasn't until issue 10 of *Nemesis* that Mr. Samura and Mr. Ohkoshi were in the same issue together. However, earlier they appeared in a special interview spanning issues 4 and 5 (moderated by the writer Shota Ohnishi). It's a rare interview not printed anywhere else, and the issues are still available to buy. In the interview, Mr. Samura claimed that *Wargelder* would end in two volumes, but based on how this one ended, that seems impossible.



DIE HER GEL DER

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



DUI BU QI (page 10)

In Mandarin Chinese, the phrase for "I'm sorry."



JJOKBARI (page 57)

A common Korean slur against ethnic Japanese.



SAKAZUKI (page 99)

A sacred yakuza ritual involving the sharing of sake from the same cup between the newly-christened members of the gang and the boss, the oyabun or oyaji, meaning father. The ritual is named after the type of cup used, and signifies the full acceptance of a member to the family.



IZUMO SOBA (page 269)

A variety of soba noodles from the Izumo region of western Japan. Unlike the Shinshu soba of eastern Japan in which the buckwheat nuts are husked first before being made into noodles, the Izumo style leaves the husks on, which results in a noodle of a browner color.



BENTO (page 286)

A type of Japanese assorted meal in a box with many compartments for the different pieces of food. The bento is often referred to as a "lunch box" because it is sold cheaply at convenience stores and train stations everywhere for a midday meal, though the traditional form has a special lacquered box.



MARIFU (page 294)

A small, intricately decorated ball of bread that is added to soups at certain traditional times of year. The word mari refers to a traditional, brightly-colored ball, which marifu are meant to resemble.



SAMUE (page 367)

The plain robe worn by Zen Buddhist monks for the purpose of their daily tasks.

Die Wergelder Volume 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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